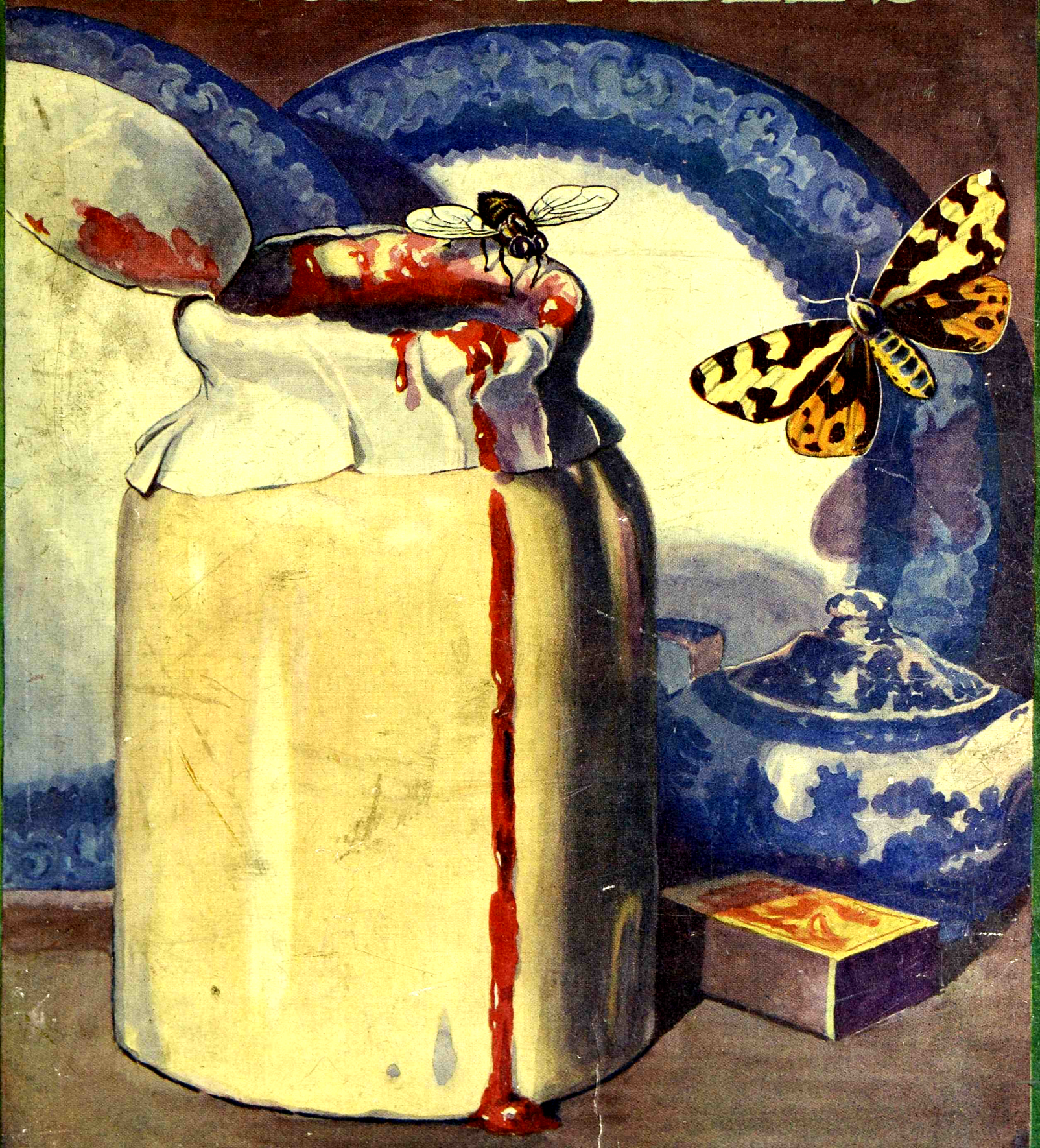
ÆSOP'S FABLES



IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

AESOP'S FABLES

THE MAN AND THE BULL.

AESOP'S FABLES

ARRANGED IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

BY

MARY GODOLPHIN

WITH TWENTY-FIVE ILLUSTRATIONS BY

HARRISON WEIR

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LIMITED
NEW YORK: E. P. DUTTON & Co.

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

In Words of one Syllable

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

ROBINSON CRUSOE

TALES FROM ANDERSEN AND GRIMM

ÆSOP'S FABLES

LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MOTHER GOOSE'S NURSERY TALES

MAMMA'S BIBLE STORIES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

CHILD'S PICTURE FABLE BOOK

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS
LIMITED

CONTENTS

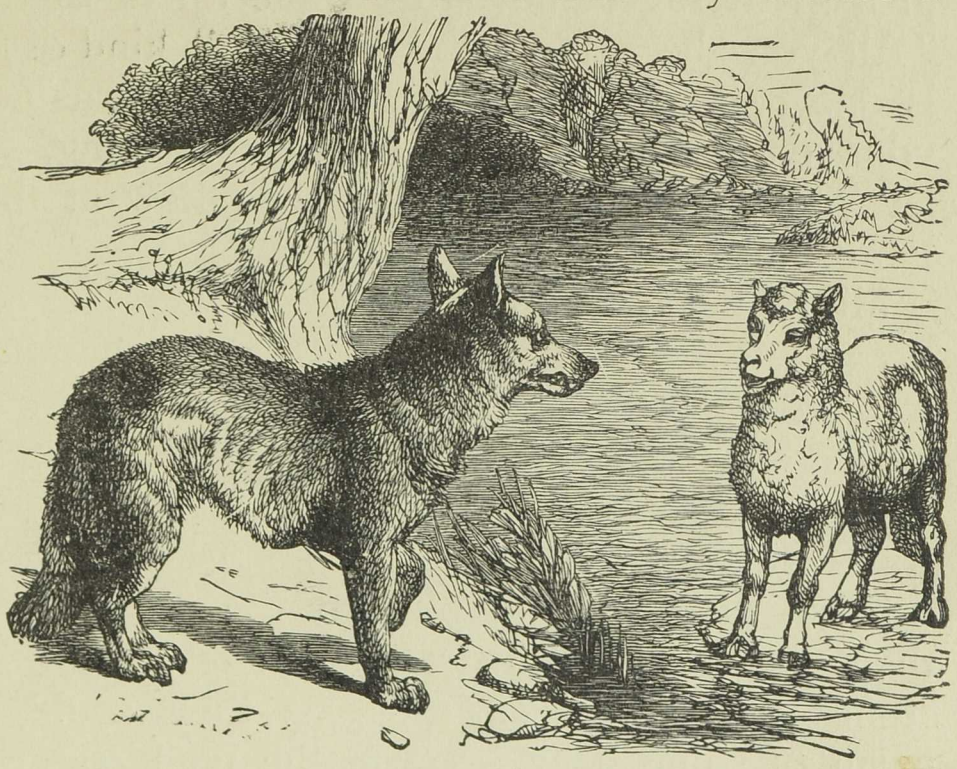
		PAGE
1	THE WOLF AND THE LAMB	7
2	BOYS AND FROGS	8
3	THE BOY AND THE WOLF	9
4	THE LION AND THE MOUSE	9
5	THE FLY AND THE MOTH	10
6	THE LYNX AND THE MOLE	11
7	THE DOG AND THE MEAT	12
8	THE BULLS AND THE BUTCHERS	13
9	THE MICE, THE CAT, AND THE BELL	14
10	THE OLD FOX AND HER YOUNG ONE	15
11	THE MAN AND HIS LIVE-STOCK	15
12	THE GNAT AND THE BULL	16
13	THE COCK AND THE GEM	16
14	THE WAR HORSE AND THE ASS	17
15	THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE	18
16	THE CLOWN AND THE PIG	19
17	STONE BROTH	20
18	THE DOVES AND THE MOUSE	21
19	THE BAG OF GOLD	22
20	THE MAN AND THE APE	23
21	THE FROGS AND THE BULLS	24
22	THE BLUE WOLF	25
23	THE BEAR IN THE WOOD	26
24	THE OLD HEN AND HER YOUNG ONES	27
25	THE MAN AND HIS ASS	27
26	THE FOX AND THE CRANE	29
27	THE BOY WHO STOLE THE BOOK	29
28	HODGE AND THE STAG	30
29	THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES	31
30	THE FOX AND THE GOAT	32
31	THE FOX AND THE CROW	34
32	THE DOG, THE COCK, AND THE FOX	35
33	THE MAN AND THE PERCH	36
34	THE WOLF AND THE HOUSE DOG	36
35	THE MAN, THE FOX, AND THE BEAR	37
36	THE BOY AND THE NUTS	38
37	THE ASS WITH A LOAD OF SALT	38
38	THE CAT, THE MOUSE, AND THE COCK	39
39	THE HARES AND THE FROGS	40
40	THE PLANE TREE	41
41	THE EAGLE AND THE FOX	42
42	THE DOG THAT WAS HUNG	43
43	THE OX AND THE FROG	44
44	THE DOG IN THE STALL	45
45	THE STAG IN THE LAKE	46
46	THE BIRDS, THE BEASTS, AND THE BAT	47
47	THE KITE, THE SOW, AND THE CAT	48
48	THE APE AND HER YOUNG ONES	49
49	THE HORSE, THE WOLF, AND THE FOX	49
50	THE OX AND THE CALF	50
51	THE WOLVES AND THE SHEEP	51
52	THE ROSE AND THE CLAY	51
53	THE KID AND THE WOLF	51
54	THE COCK AND THE FOX	52
55	THE FLY AND THE ANT	53
56	THE TWO GOATS	54
57	THE MAN AND THE SNAKE	54
58	THE WAR HORSE	55
59	THE DOG AND THE THIEF	56
60	THE ASS AND THE LAMB	57
61	THE AXE AND THE TREES	58
62	THE BEES AND THE SNAIL	58
63	THE FOX AND THE STORK	59
64	THE DAW AND THE JAY	60
65	THE CAT AND THE MICE	61
66	THE OWLS AND THE WREN	62
67	THE FOX WHO LOST HIS TAIL	62
68	THE MAN AND THE BULL	63

		PAGE
69	THE OLD DAME AND HER MAIDS.	64
70	THE HART AND THE VINE . . .	65
71	THE DOG WHO WENT OUT TO SUP	66
72	THE WOLF IN A SHEEP'S SKIN.	67
73	THE APE, THE WOLF, AND THE FOX.	67
74	THE FROG, THE MOUSE, AND THE HAWK.	68
75	THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN	69
76	THE FOX AND THE CAT.	70
77	THE KID THAT MOCKED THE WOLF	70
78	THE WOLF AND THE FOX. . . .	71
79	THE DOVE AND THE ANT. . .	72
80	THE FOX AND THE GRAPES . . .	73
81	THE DRUM AND THE VASE . . .	74
82	THE STAG IN THE OX'S STALL .	74
83	THE MAN, THE HORSE, AND THE ASS	75
84	THE BALD KNIGHT	76
85	THE MULES AND THE THIEVES .	77
86	THE FIELD OF CORN	77
87	THE BLIND MAN AND THE LAME MAN	78
88	THE JAY AND THE OWL	79
89	THE STAG, THE CROW, AND THE WOLF	79
90	THE FROGS AND THEIR KING. .	80
91	THE HAWK, THE ROOKS, AND THE CAT	82
92	THE WOLF AND THE CRANE . .	83
93	THE LARK AND THE FINCH . .	84
94	THE COCK AND THE FOX . . .	84
95	THE HARE AND HER FRIENDS .	85
96	THE ASS AND THE LAP-DOG . .	86
97	THE OAK AND THE REEDS. . .	87
98	THE MAID AND HER MILK-PAIL .	88
99	THE APE MADE KING	89
100	THE OLD BLIND DAME.	90
101	THE NURSE AND THE WOLF . .	91
102	THE HEN THAT LAID THE GOLD EGG	92
103	THE BOAR AND THE HORSE . .	93

AESOP'S FABLES.

1. THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.

ONE hot day a wolf came to get a drink at a clear brook that ran down the side of a hill. By chance a young lamb stood there. The wolf had a wish to eat her, but felt some qualms, so for a plea he made out that the lamb was his foe. "Stand off from the banks, sir," said he, "for as you tread them you stir mud in the stream, and all I can get to drink is thick and foul."



The young lamb said, in a mild tone, that she did not see how that could be the case, as the brook ran down hill to her from the place where he stood.

"But," said the wolf, "how dare you drink of it at all, till I have had my fill?"

Then the poor lamb told him that she had not drunk it and that as yet her dam's milk was both food and drink to her. "Be that as it may," said the wolf, "you are a bad lamb; for last year I heard that you spoke ill of me and all my friends."

"Last year! my dear sir," said the lamb, "why, at the time you name I was not born."

The wolf, who found it was of no use to tell lies, got in a great rage, and as he came up to the lamb, he said, "All you sheep have the same dull kind of face, and how is one to know which is which? If it was not you, it was your dam, and that's all the same thing, so I shall not let you go from here." He then flew at the poor meek lamb, and ate her up.

Might beats Right.

2. BOYS AND FROGS.

SOME boys were at play by the edge of a pond, and, as their game was "ducks and drakes," they had to throw stones with as much force as they could, to the great harm of some poor frogs in the pool.

At last one of the frogs, who was more brave than the rest, put his head out of the pond and said, "Oh, dear young sirs, stop, I pray you, for what is sport to you is death to us!"

3. THE BOY AND THE WOLF.

A BOY, who kept watch on a flock of sheep, was heard from time to time to call out, "The Wolf! The Wolf!" as a bit of fun. Scores of times, in this way, he caused the men in the fields to come from their work to drive off the wolf.

But when they found it was a joke and that the wild beast was not there, they made up their minds that, should the boy call "Wolf" once more, they would not stir to help him.

The wolf, at last, did come. "Wolf! Wolf!" shrieks out the boy, in great fear, but none would now heed his cries, and the wolf kills the boy, that he may feast on the sheep.

One knows not how to trust those who tell lies, though they may speak the truth at some time.

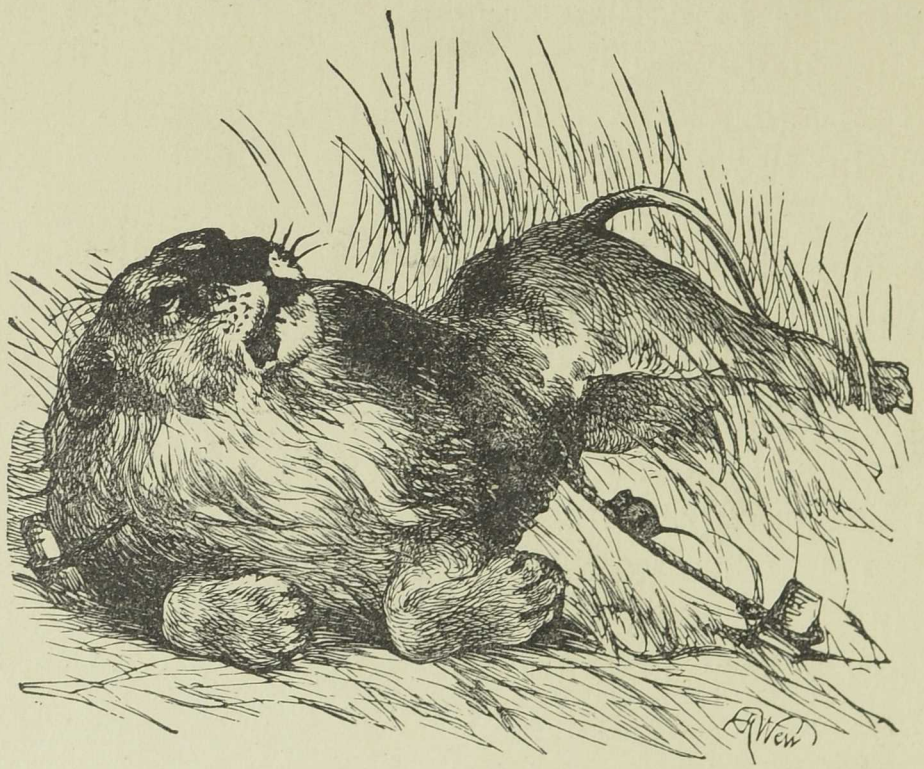
4. THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

A LION was roused from sleep one day by a mouse that ran on his face. The fierce beast caught him and would have killed him, but the poor mouse cried out: "O King of Beasts, if you would but spare my life I will be sure to pay back your kind act some day."

The lion laughed and let the mouse go free.

By-and-by the lion was caught in a snare which held him to the ground. The mouse heard him roar, and came to his help. He bit the rope with his teeth, and as he set

him free he said to the lion, "You laughed at me when I said I might pay back your kind act some day, but



now you do know that a poor mouse can help a lion."

No one is too small to help in time of need.

5. THE FLY AND THE MOTH.

A FLY, one night, stood on the edge of a pot of jam, and as he could not turn from so sweet a feast, he went down the jar that he might reach the fruit; but found to his cost that he stuck fast like a bird caught with lime. A moth that flew by, spoke to him thus: "It serves you right! How could you think that such legs and wings as yours would be safe in a pot of jam?"

By-and-by the moth saw a lamp in the same room, and flew to the light; but at last his sight grew dim, he sprang up to the flame, and was burnt to death. "What!" says the fly, who saw him, "How is this? You love to play with fire! You who took me to task for so small a crime as a taste for jam!"

We find fault with our friends, but do not see our own faults.

6. THE LYNX AND THE MOLE.

A LYNX by chance met a mole at the foot of a mound. "Ah, poor wretch!" said the lynx, "what a life is yours! Shut up in the cold, damp ground, you see no light, nor feel the warmth of the sun, for you do but move from hole to hole. If you could but see me as I leap by your dark mound with limbs so free, and my eyes—ah! my eyes—so keen, you would die of grief at your dull life. Would that I could change it for you, my friend!"

"I thank you for your kind wish," said the mole; "but I need not your help, nor do I feel so dull as you think, for I was bred and born in the ground, and all my days have been spent here. I have my dear young ones round me, and more than all, I am safe. My eyes are small, it is true, but that has made my ears sharp, and if they serve me well now, I hear a sound which seems to come from where you stand, and it tells of a foe."

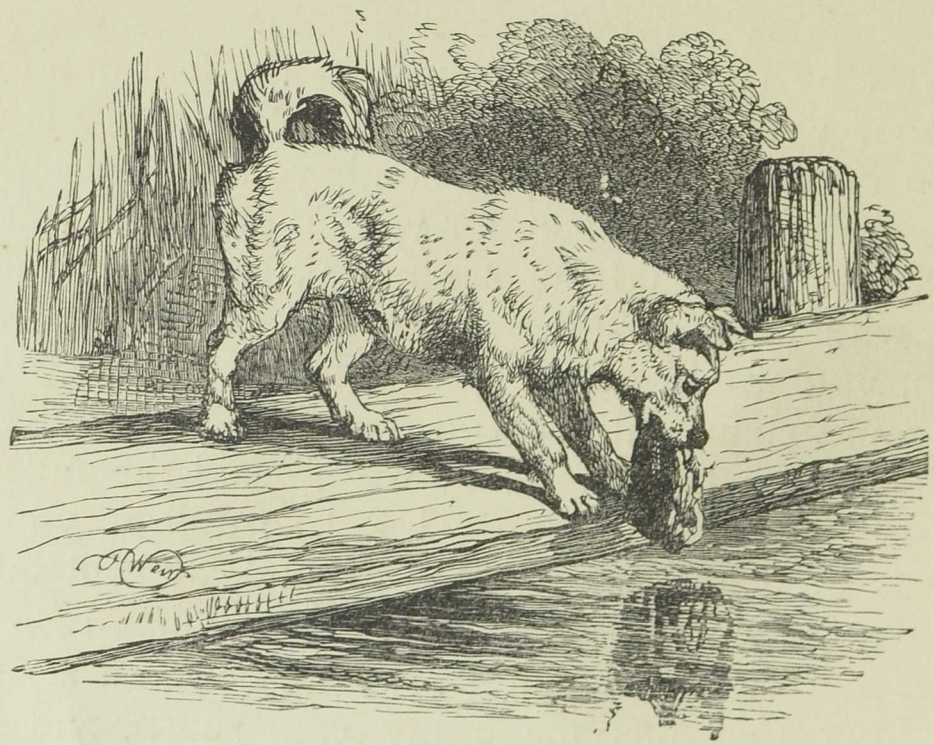
Just then up rode some men from the hunt, who put a spear through the heart of the poor lynx, and he fell

dead; but the mole went safe back to her hole in the bank, and said, when she got there, "There is no place like home."

What the eye sees not, the heart wants not.

7. THE DOG AND THE MEAT.

A DOG ran down the road with a large piece of meat in his mouth. At last he came to a bridge; and as he crossed the brook, he thought he saw a live dog in the stream.



"Ha!" said he, "that dog has a piece of meat twice as large as mine, and I must have it!"

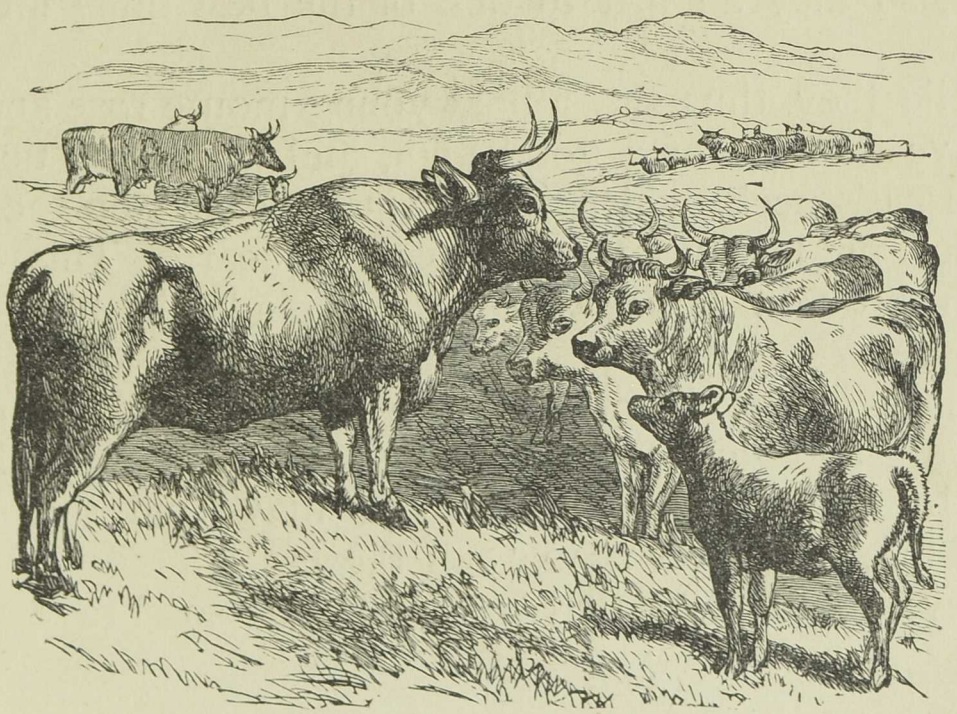
But as he tried to snatch the meat he saw in the stream, he dropped that which he held in his own mouth, and

it sank out of reach. He thus lost both; that which he thought he saw in the brook, and his own; which the stream took far out of sight.

8. THE BULLS AND THE BUTCHERS.

THE butchers, by their trade, were foes to the whole race of bulls; most of whom at last made up their minds to kill these men who did them so much harm. So the bulls met one day and talked, while they made their horns sharp for the fight.

One of them, an old ox, large and strong, who had



drawn the plough in the fields, thus spoke: "These men kill us, it is true; but they do it with hands full of skill in their trade, and cause but small pain. If we get

rid of them, we shall fall into the hands of men who are not so skilled, and thus we shall have to bear much more pain when they put us to death; for you may be sure, that though these butchers were killed, yet men will still want beef."

9. THE MICE, THE CAT, AND THE BELL.

ONCE on a time some mice were in such great fear of a cat, that they did not dare to stir day or night lest she should kill them. At this rate they thought they would starve, so they all met to talk of the best thing for them to do.

While they thus sat, a bold young mouse rose and said, "I have thought of a good plan, and that is to tie a bell to the cat's neck, which would ring at each step she takes, and let us know when she comes near." This bright speech brought hope with it, and made the mice jump for joy.

Then a grave old mouse, who till now had been quite still, rose and said, "I have heard that you may 'hold a wolf by the ears' and that you may 'put salt on the bird's tail,' but who is to 'bell the cat'?"

They could not find one mouse so brave as to do it.

10. THE OLD FOX AND HER YOUNG ONE.

An old fox and her young one found their way to a farm-yard where hens were kept, and one by one they put them all to death. It was the wish of the young fox to eat them all then and there, but his dam said, "We have had great luck, yet we must not eat all our stock at once, but put some by, and come for it when we want it."

"Don't preach to me," said the bold young fox, "the fowls will not keep sweet a day, so I shall eat as much as I can now, for when the men on the farm see what we have done, they will, of course look out for us." The young fox then ate such a lot that it was as much as he could do to crawl to his hole, and in less than an hour he was dead. The old fox came back to the yard, and was caught by the men, who had lain in wait to kill her.

"Ah!" said she, with her last breath, "each age hath its fault; my young one died as she ate too much, and had I had less greed I should not have been caught."

11. THE MAN AND HIS LIVE-STOCK.

A man who had a farm in a cold part of the world, was shut up in it by a deep fall of snow, and could not get out to buy food, so he ate all his sheep one by one; and as the frost did not break up, he then ate his pigs, then

his goats, and, at last, the ox that was kept for the plough.

When the dogs on the farm found this out, they said, "Let us be off! for since the man thinks it no harm to kill his sheep, his pigs, his goats, and his ox, how can we hope that he will spare us?"

When the house next door is on fire, it is high time to look to our own.

12. THE GNAT AND THE BULL.

ONCE on a time a poor gnat sat on the horn of a bull, and said, "I have made free to rest on the tip of your horn; but if my weight is at all too much for you, pray say so, and I will move off."

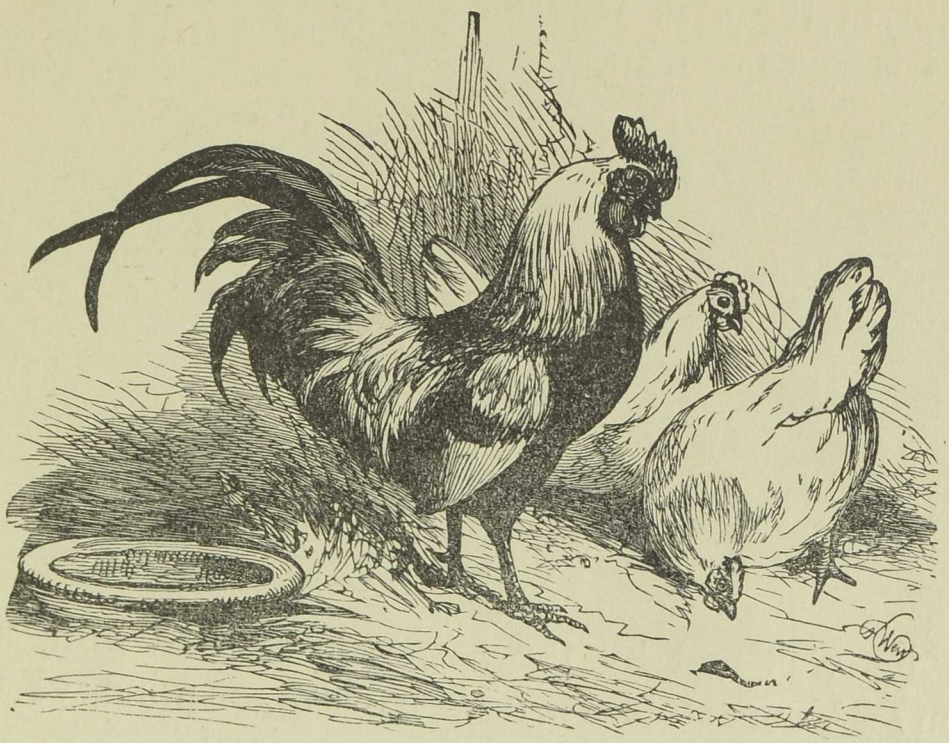
"I think you are more nice than wise," said the bull. "To tell you the truth, I did not know that you had come, so I shall not miss you when you think fit to go off." At this the bull gave his head a toss, and put the gnat to death with his tongue.

Do not think too much of yourself.

13. THE COCK AND THE GEM.

A COCK came down from his roost at break of day, and set up a loud, shrill crow; he then went to work to scratch the ground in search of food for the hens. By-and-by,

what should he turn up but a bright gem. He gave it a kick and said, "Ha! you are a fine thing, no doubt; but,



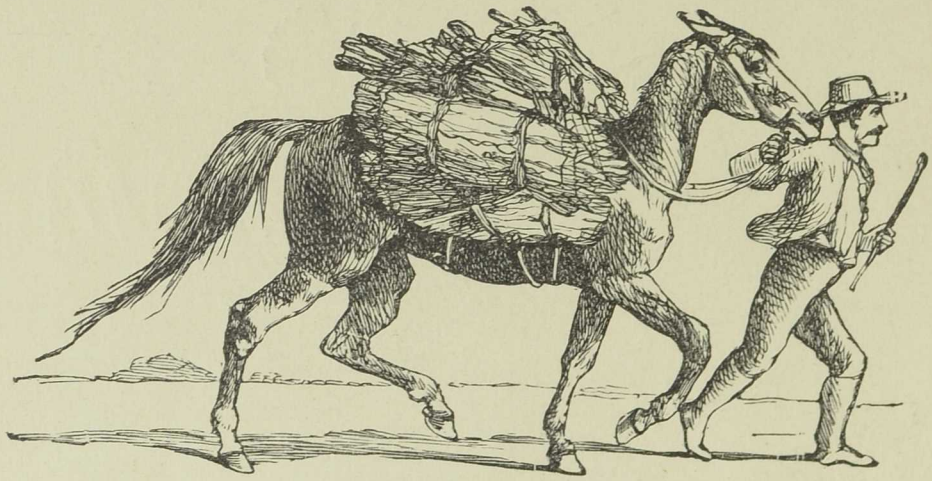
to my mind, one good grain of wheat is worth all the gems in the world."

Do not cast pearls to swine.

14. THE WAR HORSE AND THE ASS.

A FINE horse broke loose from his stall, and as he ran down the road with a loud shrill neigh, he met an ass with a load on his back, to whom he said, in a proud tone, that if he did not make way for him he would kick him with his heels and tread him in the dust. The poor

ass held his peace and made room for him as fast as he could. In course of time the horse went to the wars, and was shot in the eye, which so spoilt his good looks, that he was sent to work on the farm. Stript of all his fine



dress he was met by the ass, who said to him, "Ha! is it you? Your state is now as low as mine. I thought your pride would have a fall some day!"

15. THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE.

THE hare one day made great fun of the short legs and slow pace of his friend the tortoise, who said, "Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in the race." The hare knew, of course, that she could not do this; but since she made so great a boast, he told her with much pride that she might try it if she liked.

Then they called a fox who chanced to be near, and asked him to choose the course and fix the goal.

On the next day the race came off. The tortoise did not stop, but went with a slow pace straight to the end of the course; while the hare ran fast for a time, and then lay down by the way to wait for his friend to come in sight.

It was a nice cool spot where he lay, and ere he knew it he went to sleep. How long he slept he did not know; but when he woke, he saw by the sun that the day was well nigh spent, and no tortoise was in sight.

"Could she have passed me while I slept?" thought the hare, as he jumped up from his bed, and ran with all his might to the goal. There, to his grief, he found that the tortoise, whom he had made fun of as "slow," had won the race.

16. THE CLOWN AND THE PIG.

A CLOWN, well known for his wit, said he could show a trick which had not yet been seen. So he took his stand on a stage, and, with his head bent down, he gave out a sound like the squeak of a pig. This he did so well, that all thought he had brought a young pig in his cloak; but though a search was made, they did not find one.

A rough man from a farm, who had come to look on, said, "Faith, I can do this as well as he." So the next night they were both to try their skill. A great crowd came to see them, and the men went on the stage.

The clown gave his squeak, which brought a roar of praise, as it had done the first night. The farm man's turn then came, and he had a real young pig in his cloak;

but though he made it squeak by a hard pinch on the ear, all gave the palm to the clown and sent the farm man off the stage with a loud hiss.

17. STONE BROTH.

A POOR man, in a storm of wind and rain, came to a great house to beg for alms, and was sent off with cross words. But he went back, and said, "May I but ask to

dry my clothes at your fire, for I am wet through with rain?" This the maids thought would not cost them much, so they let him come in. He then told the cook that if she would but give him a pan, and let him fill it from the pump, he would make some stone broth.

This kind of dish was so new to the cook, that she let him make it. The man then got a stone from the road, and put it in the pan. The cook gave him some salt, peas, and mint, as well as all the scraps of meat that she could spare, to throw in.

Thus the poor man made a rich mess, and the cook said, "Well done! you have made a silk purse out of a sow's ear; and it just shows that 'they who crave for food will break through stone walls.'"

Where there's a will there's a way.

18. THE DOVES AND THE MOUSE.

A MAN who sold doves in the East threw down some grains of rice in a wood, and flung a net on the top of them in such a way that it could not be seen in the grass, and then hid close by to watch. Soon the king of the wild doves, "Smooth Neck" by name, flew up to the spot with his train, and said, "Where can all these grains of rice have come from? Let it be seen to. Do not eat them yet."

But the doves, drawn by greed, set to work to pick them up, and they were all caught in the net. "Ha!" said Smooth Neck, "I thought this might be the work

of a foe. You would not wait, as I told you to do, and this has come of it. Hark to the plan which I have in hand. We know that small things may work out great ends, and that huge beasts may be bound with straws made firm in a thick rope. Now, all put out your strength at once, take up the net, and fly off."

This they did, and the man who had set the snare was much struck to see the birds fly up in the air with his net. "This is well," said one of the doves, "but what are we to do now, with this snare on our feet? Smooth Neck said, "We are in an ill plight, but Gold Fur, the wise king of the mice, may help us."

So he went in search of Gold Fur's hole, which had scores of small doors that led to it, deep down in the ground. The good mouse came out to meet them, and when he had heard their tale, he said, "As long as my teeth do not break, I will gnaw the net for you." So with his sharp teeth he cut the snare and set them all free.

Then, with great joy, the king of the doves bent low his smooth neck to him, and said, "What a lot we owe to you! Think of us as your slaves for life; for a friend in need is the best friend of all."

19. THE BAG OF GOLD.

Two men set off to walk from Bath to York, and said they would each share the same fate, come what might. All went well till they got half-way, when one of them

saw a bag of gold in the path, which he took up. "Ha!" said he, "I am in luck's way. See, I have found a bag of gold! I will buy a horse and ride the rest of my way."

"My friend," said the man who went with him, "when we set out you told me we were to share the same luck, be it good or bad; so you ought to say 'we' have found a bag of gold, not 'I.'"

"You may think as you please," said the man, "but as it was I who found the gold, I shall keep it, and do with it as I said, and wish you good-day."

Just then they heard a loud cry of "Stop thief!" "Come, I pray you," said the man who held the bag, in a great fright; "come, let us hide in this wood, for if the men find us with the gold, they will take us for thieves, and we shall get hanged for it."

"How now!" said his friend; "you swore it should be 'I' when you found the bag, so pray let it be 'I' as long as there is a fear of your being caught for theft."

20. THE MAN AND THE APE.

A MAN in the East kept a tame ape, who was of great use to him, for he could scare the birds from the fruit and peas. One day the man took his sleep at noon, while the ape sat by his side to brush the flies from his face.

One fly came and stood on the tip of his nose, so the ape, with a grin, sent it off, then it flew to his chin, and

this put the ape in such a rage that he flung a stone at it, which smote the fly; but, sad to tell, the force with which the stone was thrown broke the man's jaw.

A rash friend is worse than a foe.

21. THE FROGS AND THE BULLS.

SOME frogs that were in a damp marsh saw two bulls which fought in a field some way off. "Look!" said one of them, "there's a sight! Dear sirs, what must we do?"

"I pray thee," said a young frog, "do not take fright at that. How can the fights of two bulls hurt us? They are not of the same tribe as we are, far less in the same rank of life; and as to size, why we are too small for such large beasts as those to take note of us. They do but fight to see which shall be head of the herd."

"That is true," said an old frog, "but as one will win the day, one must, of course, yield, and the bull that is sent out of the field will come to the marsh for rush and reed, and will crush us to death at each step. Know you not that when great folk fall out, small folk feel pains for it?"

22. THE BLUE WOLF.

A WOLF once fell in a vat of blue dye which is made in the East. A man came by and thought he was dead, so he took him out and laid him on the bank and went his way; and then the wolf, glad to be safe, ran off to the woods.

One by one, all the beasts came to look at him, and knew not what to make of him. So then the sly wolf said, "My fur is of a fine blue! You see in me a new kind of beast, and so I must, of course, be king of all the rest!"

Then the bears, the boars, the apes, the wolves, as well as the ounce, the lynx, the bull, the fox, and all the rest of them, drew near to bow their heads to him as the lord of the wood.

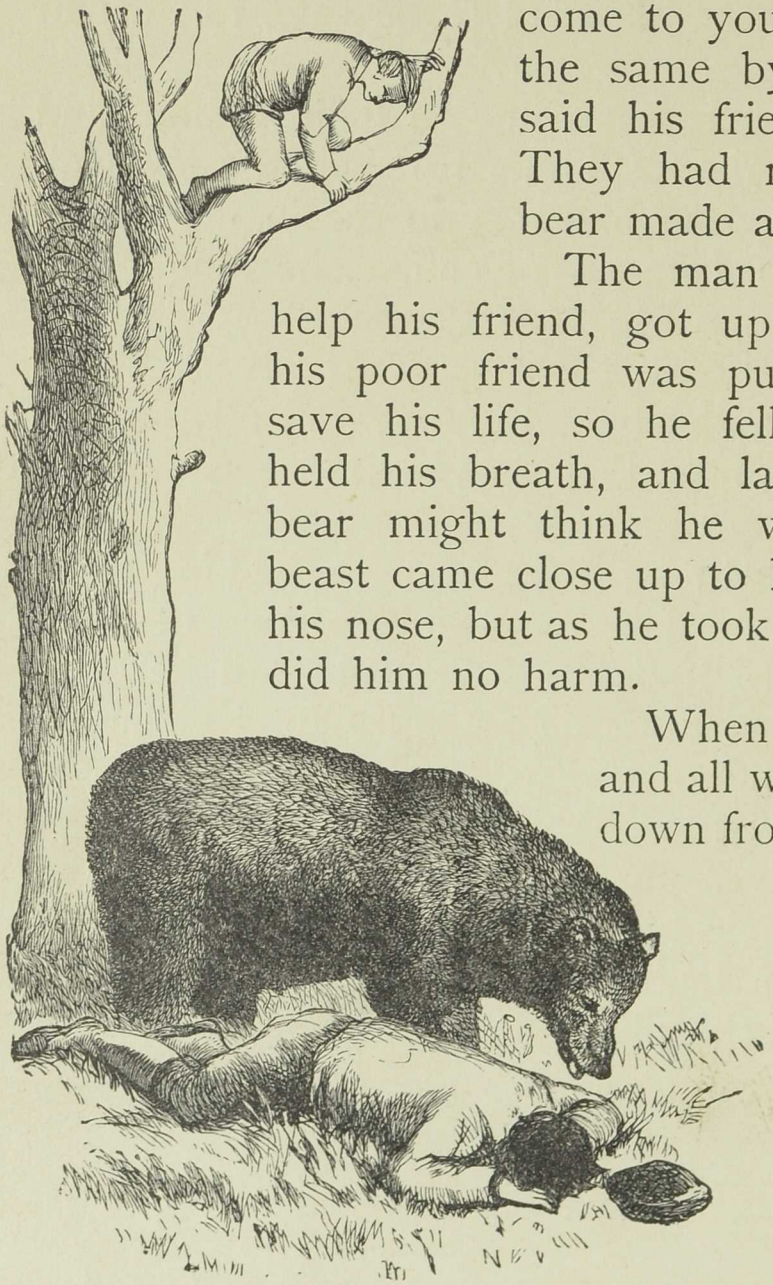
But soon the wolves thought they saw in the king some sign that he was one of their own kind, so one of them said, "Be it for me to find him out, and let it be done as I say. At night you must all set up a loud yell near him, and if he be one of us—as I think he is—he will send forth a loud howl too."

So at night the wolves put up their heads to howl, and they soon heard the new king join in the cry, for he could not help it. At this, a loud laugh rang through the wood from all the beasts of the plain.

What is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh.

23. THE BEAR IN THE WOOD.

Two men had to pass through a thick wood, and one of them said, "Should we fall in with wild beasts, I will come to your help, if you will do the same by me." "So be it," said his friend, and off they set. They had not gone far when a bear made a rush out of the wood.



The man who said he would help his friend, got up a tree to hide, while his poor friend was put to his wits' end to save his life, so he fell flat on the ground, held his breath, and lay quite still, that the bear might think he was dead. The huge beast came close up to him, and felt him with his nose, but as he took him for a dead man, did him no harm.

When the bear was gone, and all was safe, the man came down from the tree, and with a smile, asked, "What did the bear tell you when he put his nose so close up to your ear?"

"Well," said his friend, "what he told me was this—'Have a care of that rogue

up the tree, and for the time to come put no trust in him!'"

Prove thy friend ere thou have need of him.

24. THE OLD HEN AND HER YOUNG ONES.

A HEN led her train of young chicks through a yard, to rake the chaff and to taste the grain, when one of them flew on the edge of a well to try her wings, and by chance fell down it, to the great grief of the old bird.

The next day, when the hen met one of her chicks from an old brood, she said. "My dear son, I know you are strong and bold, but, for your life, do not go near that well; if you do, some great harm will come to you."

"Why should she tell me this?" said he. "Does she think I am not brave, or does she store some good thing down the well, which she keeps for her last brood? I will go and see."

So he stood at the brink of the well, and, far down in the dark, he saw a young cock, whose plumes rose, and whose wings spread, as if he had a wish to fight. Down flew the young bird into the well where he was drowned.

If a fool is bid not to do a thing, he is sure to do it.

25. THE MAN AND HIS ASS.

A MAN and his son drove their ass to a fair to sell him. They had not gone far, when one of a group of girls, who stood round a well, said, with a laugh, "Look at those

two fools—they let their ass walk at his ease, while they trudge on foot by his side."

The man heard this, and set his son on the beast. They had not gone more than half a mile, when they came up to some old men who sat in grave talk. "There," said one of them, "that just proves what I say: now-a-days the young take no care of the old; see, that young rogue rides, while the old man has to walk by his side." Get down they called, and let your Dad rest his limbs.

At this the man made his son jump off the ass, that he might ride him. Thus they went on for some time, when they met three kind dames, each with a child on her arm. "Why, you old sloth," said one of them, "what a shame to sit at ease while that poor weak lad can scarce keep pace by the side of you!"

The man then took his son on the back of the ass by his side, and so they rode till they got near the town. "Pray, good friend," said a young man who met them, "is that ass your own?" "Yes," said he. "One would not have thought so by the way you load him. Why, it seems to me more fit that you two should take him to the fair, than that he should take you."

"Well, be it so," said the old man; "we can but try." So they got off, and made fast the legs of the ass to a pole, which each took hold of at one end, and so went on their way, till they came to a bridge.

The boys and girls thought this was a rare sight, for they ran in crowds to laugh at the farce, till the ass—which took fright at the noise—gave a kick which broke the cords that bound him; then he fell in the stream, and was drowned. The old man then made the best of his

way home, and said, "If we try to please all, we please none."

26. THE FOX AND THE CRANE.

A FOX that had been out to steal the fowls, had got hurt in a trap, and lay at the point of death. For a long time he sought in vain for help, but at last he saw a crane, and said to her, "I beg of you to bring me some drink to quench my thirst, for I might then gain strength to go in search of food."

"Not far in search, I think," said the crane, "for were I to bring you drink, I make no doubt that the food would come with me."

Play not with sharp tools.

27. THE BOY WHO STOLE THE BOOK.

A BOY stole a book from school, and brought it home to his aunt, who did not take him to task for what he had done, but gave him some plums. In course of time the child grew up to be a man, and—need we say—a thief? He stole more and more, and at last was caught in a great theft, and was hung.

A crowd came to look on at the sad scene, and with them the aunt of the thief, who, with sobs and tears, tore her hair and beat her breast. The thief saw her, and said to those who were in charge of him, "Give me leave to say a word to my aunt."

When she came up, he put his face to hers, as if he

would speak, and bit off her ear! At this the aunt gave a loud cry, and all who stood near were struck with fear at so base a deed.

"Good sirs," said the young man, "it is she who is the cause of my guilt; for if, when I stole the book from school, she had had the sense to tell me that I had done wrong, I should not have come to this sad end."

Spare the rod, and spoil the child.

He that will steal an ounce, will steal a pound.

28. HODGE AND THE STAG.

A STAG that had left the hounds a long way off, came up to a man called Hodge who was at work on a farm, to ask if he would show him some safe place to hide in. So the man bade him hide in his own hut, which was close by. The stag lay quite still in the hut, and in a short time up came the squire and his train with the hounds.

The squire caught sight of Hodge, and drew back to ask him if he had seen the stag pass that way. "No," said the man, in a loud tone, "I have not." At the same time—as he had a wish to keep on good terms with the squire—he held out his hand, with a sly look, to point to the hut where the stag lay hid; but as luck would have it, the squire took no heed of this sign, nor did he so much as see it. So on he went to join the rest; but though they rode through the field where the hut was, they did not see the stag.

As soon as they were well out of sight, the stag stole from the hut, but said not a word to Hodge who now

called out to him. "You wretch!" said he, "you owe your life to me, yet when you leave my hut, where I sent you to hide from your foes, you say not one word of thanks."

"Nay," said the stag, "you may make sure I should fill your ears as full of praise and thanks as my heart is of joy, if your deeds had been true to your words; in short, if I had not, through the door of the hut, seen your hand play false to your tongue."

29. THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES.

A LARK had a nest of young birds in a field of corn, and one day two men came to look at the state of the crop.

"Well," says one of them to his son, "I think this wheat is ripe, so now go and ask our friends to help us reap it."

When the old lark came back to her nest, the young brood told her, in a great fright, what they had heard. "So they look to their friends," said she; "well, I think we have no cause to fear."

The next day the man of the farm came, and saw no friends in the corn-field, so he bade his son fetch his kith and kin to help him. This the young birds heard, and told the old one when she came home to her nest. "I do not see," she said, "that men go much out of their way to help their friends."

In the course of a day or two as the man found that no one came, he said to his son, "Hark you, John; we will trust to none, but you and I will reap the corn at dawn of day." "Now," said the old lark, "we must be gone; for when a man takes his work in his own hands, it is sure to be done."

30. THE FOX AND THE GOAT.

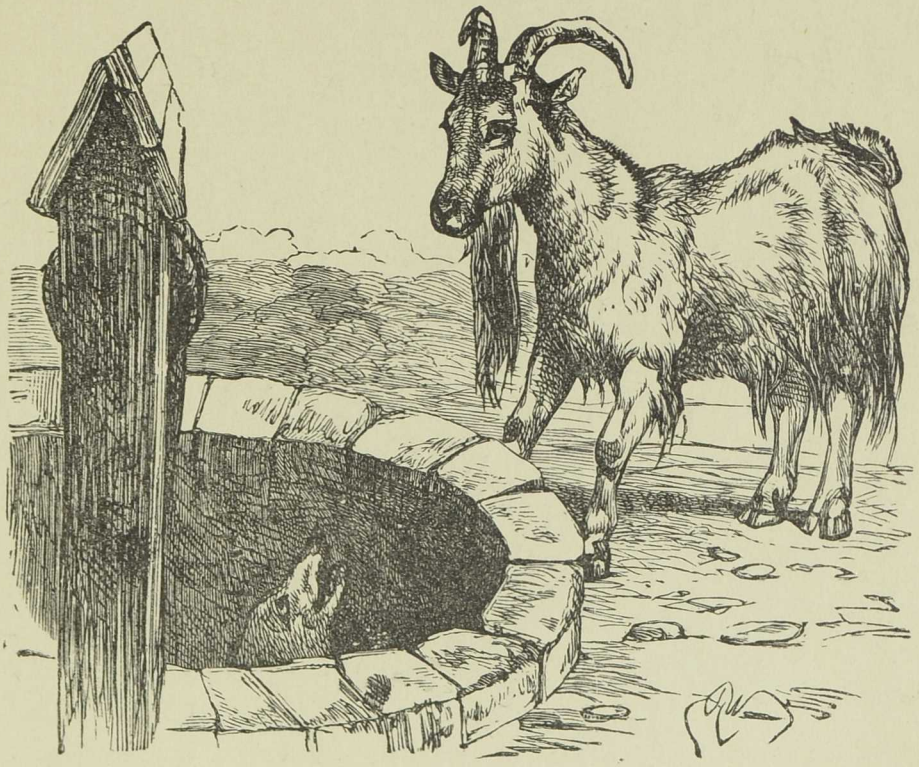
ONCE upon a time a fox fell down a deep well, and could not get out. A goat came to the same well to drink; and as he saw the fox asked if it was sweet and clear. Here was the help which the fox had long wished, so he hid his own sad plight and asked the goat to come down and try it.

The goat's thirst was so great, that he jumped down, and drank his fill. When it was quenched he soon learned how hard it would be for him to get out.

"But," said the fox, "I think I see a plan by which we may both reach the top. "If," said he, "you will place

your fore-feet on the wall, and bend your head, I will run up your back and thus get out; then I will help you to do the same."

So the goat did as the fox wished and the sly beast soon made his way out; but when he got to the edge he



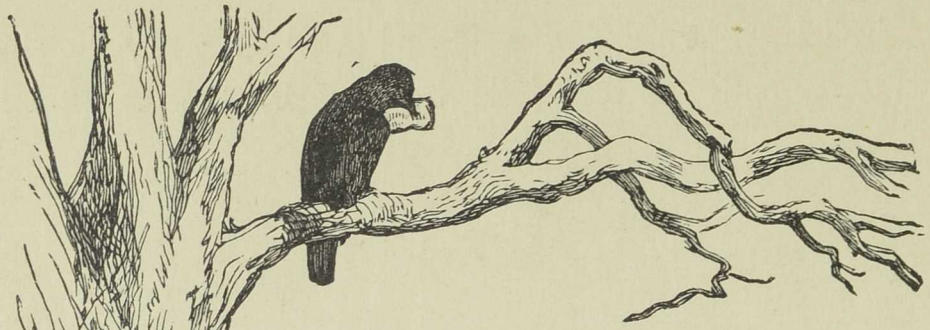
leaped to the ground and ran off as fast as he could to the woods.

As the goat called to him, he turned round and said: "If you had as many brains in your head as you have hairs in your beard you would not have gone down into the well, till you saw the way out."

Look before you leap.

31. THE FOX AND THE CROW.

A CROW sat on a bough of a tree with a piece of cheese in her beak. A sly old fox which saw her, said, "What a fine bird thou art! How bright is thine eye, how smooth are thy wings, what grace is there in the turn of thy whole form! Oh, that such a bird should not have a sweet voice!"

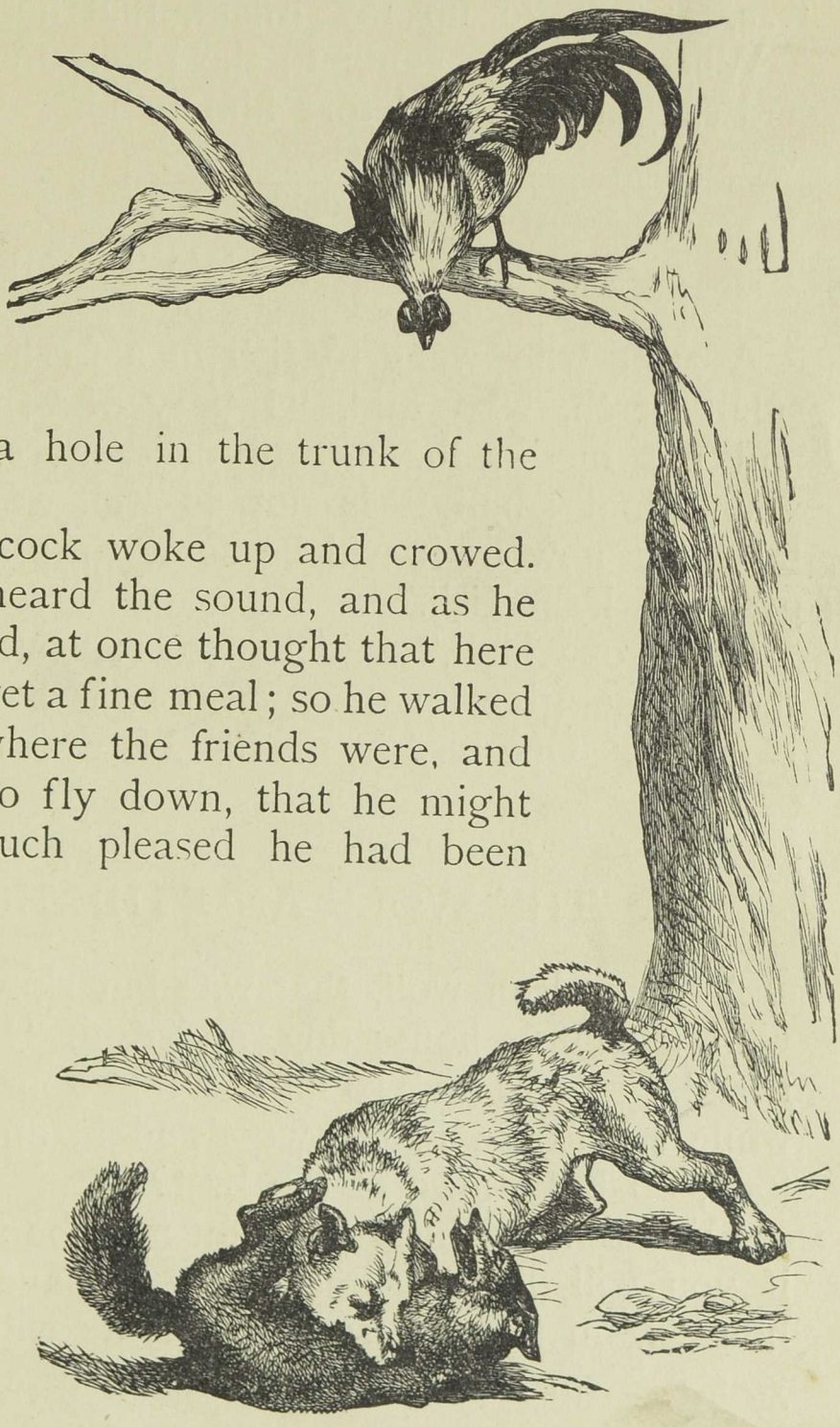


The poor crow was much pleased with this speech, and wished to prove how sweet her note was; so she gave a loud caw, and down fell the cheese to the ground.

The fox ran off with it, and said, as he went, "I praised well her charms; but fair words do not cost much, nor does the heart feel all that the false tongue speaks. Yet I said not a word of her brains; for a wise head keeps a close mouth and a close mouth will catch no flies."

32. THE DOG, THE COCK, AND THE FOX.

A DOG once asked his friend, the cock, to take a long walk with him. When night came, they had to sleep in a thick wood. The cock flew up on a branch to roost, while the dog found a bed near the ground, in a hole in the trunk of the same tree.



At dawn the cock woke up and crowed. A fox near by heard the sound, and as he had not yet dined, at once thought that here was a chance to get a fine meal; so he walked up to the tree where the friends were, and asked the cock to fly down, that he might tell him how much pleased he had been with the grand voice he had just heard, and how glad he would be to make friends with the one who owned it.

The cock saw at once why the fox wished so

much to know him, and thus spoke: "Sir, I wish you would please go round to the hole in the trunk of this tree, and wake up my friend, that he may let you in."

When the fox came to the place, the dog sprang out and caught him, and tore him to bits.

33. THE MAN AND THE PERCH.

A MAN who went to fish in a fresh stream, caught a small perch, who said, "I pray of you to save my life, and put me in the stream once more, for as I am but young and small it is not so well worth your while to take me now as it will be some time hence, when I am grown a large fish."

"So you think," said the man; "but I am not one of those who give up that which is at hand for that which is far off. One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

34. THE WOLF AND THE HOUSE DOG.

A POOR lean wolf, that was but skin and bone, fell in with a plump house dog, and said, "How comes it, my friend, that you look so fat and that your skin is so smooth, while I who am in the woods night and day in search of food, do but starve at the best?"

"Well," said the dog, "you may be as well off as I am, if you will do the same for it. I have but to guard the house from thieves; so come home with me and see how you like the life." "With all my heart!" cries the wolf.

As they went down the road side by side, the wolf saw a mark on the dog's neck, and wished to know what it was. So they had a talk.

Dog.—Well, it may be a slight mark from the chain.

Wolf.—Chain? Do you mean to say that you may not roam free, when and where you please?

Dog.—Well, not quite. For, you see, they do think that I am a bit fierce, so they tie me up by day, but I am let loose at night. And all the folk in the house pet me, and feed me with scraps from their own plates, and —— Come on. What ails you?

Wolf.—Oh, good-night to you. I wish you joy of your fine life; but, for my part, though I may not be fat, I will at least be free. A free life in the woods for me!

35. THE MAN, THE FOX, AND THE BEAR.

A MAN once saw a fox which had so smooth a coat that he felt a wish to kill him for the sake of it, and he thought of a plan by which he might save the skin whole. He dug a deep trench just in front of his hole, on which he spread leaves, sticks, and straw, and then hid in the thick trees out of sight, to wait till the fox came home.

But he went to sleep; and while he slept, the fox came up, saw the piece of meat set for bait, and wished to taste it; yet when he stole a look round him, he feared that all was not right, so he did not touch it.

Soon a bear came up, and sprang on the bait. The sticks gave way as he fell on them, and down he went into the pit. The noise woke up the man, who, as he

thought it was his friend the fox, went down into the pit, where the bear gave him a hug which took all the breath out of his lungs, and then ate him up. So the man was caught in his own trap.

He must rise in good time who would cheat the fox.

36. THE BOY AND THE NUTS.

A YOUNG child put his hands in a jar where nuts and figs were kept. He took all that his fist could hold, but when he came to pull it out, the neck of the jar was too small for him to do so. At this the tears came in his eyes, and a friend, who stood by, said, "Grasp at but half, my boy, and you will have it; but grasp at all, you lose all."

37. THE ASS WITH A LOAD OF SALT.

A MAN drove his ass down to the coast to fetch a load of salt, and on his way home the ass fell in the midst of a stream. The salt, of course, did not take long to melt, and so the ass lost his load, and came home fresh and gay.

The next day the man set off to the coast for some more salt, and put the load on his ass once more. As they went through the stream, the ass took care to fall down just at the same spot, and thus got rid of his load this time too.

But the man, who now saw the trick, made a plan to cure the ass of it. He bought a large load of sponge, and put it on the back of the beast, and drove him, for the third time, to the coast. By-and-by they came to the

stream, when the ass thought to play his old pranks. But the sponge got wet through, and the ass found to his cost that so far from a light load, he had now on his back one which was ten times the weight of the first.

If a man cheats me once, shame on him. If he cheats me twice, shame on me.

38. THE CAT, THE MOUSE, AND THE COCK.

A YOUNG mouse, which had not seen much of the world, came home one day and said, "Oh, I have had such a fright! I have seen a thing with such a fierce look, that struts now here, now there, on two legs; on his head he wears a small red flag, and one round his throat; his arms flap up and down on his sides as if he meant to rise in the air.

"But you should have seen him stretch out his head and cry at me with his sharp mouth, till I thought he would eat me up. It made me shake from head to foot with fear, and I was glad to run home as fast as my feet would take me.

"But for this I should have made friends with such a sweet beast. She had soft fur like ours, which was black and grey in streaks. Her look was so kind and meek that I fell quite in love with her. Then she had a fine long tail, which you might see wave to and fro, first on this side, then on that; and when I saw her fix her bright eyes on me I thought she had a wish to speak. But that fierce wretch set up his scream, which drove me home in this haste, quite out of breath with fear."

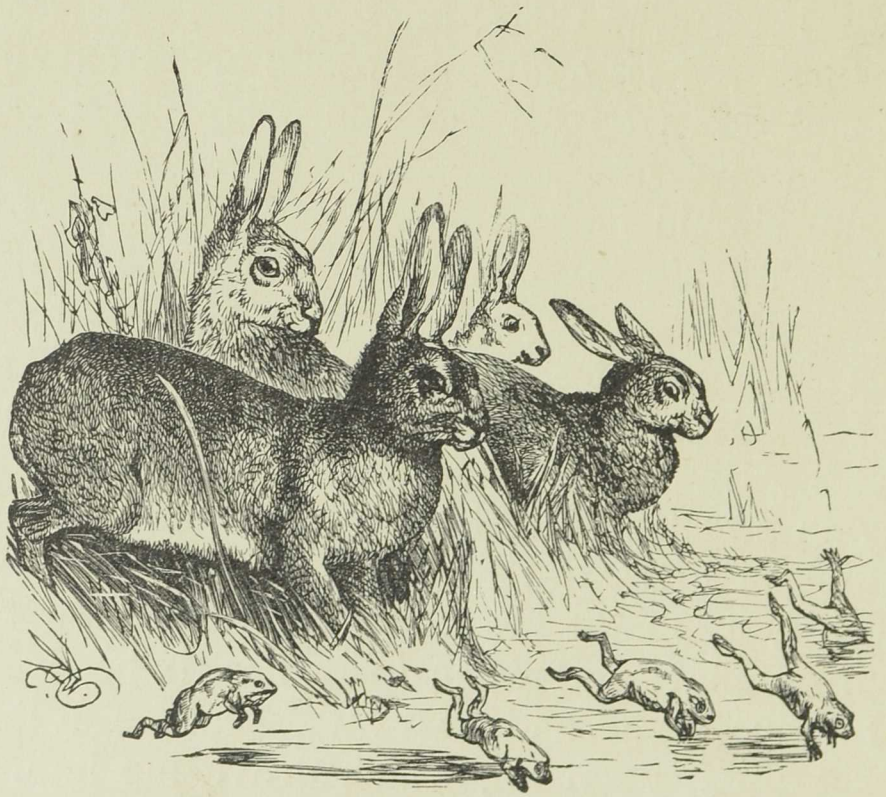
"Ah! my dear child," said the old mouse, "in good

truth, you have run for your life; but the fierce thing you speak of was not your foe, for it was but a bird, that would not have done you the least harm in the world; while that sweet thing, of which you seem so fond, was a cat, and cats eat all us mice when they have a chance—in short, they live on mice."

Judge not by looks.

39. THE HARES AND THE FROGS.

The hares, who lived in a park, were at one time put in such a fright by a great storm of wind that blew through



the grass and trees, that they made up their minds to die. So they sought out some spot where they might end their

days. They ran through the fence and down the long hill, but were stopped in their mad flight by a small brook which flowed past in front of them.

When they saw this, they cried out, one and all, "We will jump in the brook and drown!" But when they came to the edge, the tribe of frogs which sat near by in the damp weeds, rushed in great fear to the edge, and jumped far out into the stream.

When one old "puss" saw this, she called to the rest, and said, "Hold! mind what you do; here are the frogs, which, I see, have their cares as well as we; do not let us think that we have more ills than our share, but let us live, and learn to bear them as we should."

If we care to look round, we shall find out that we are no worse off than most of our friends.

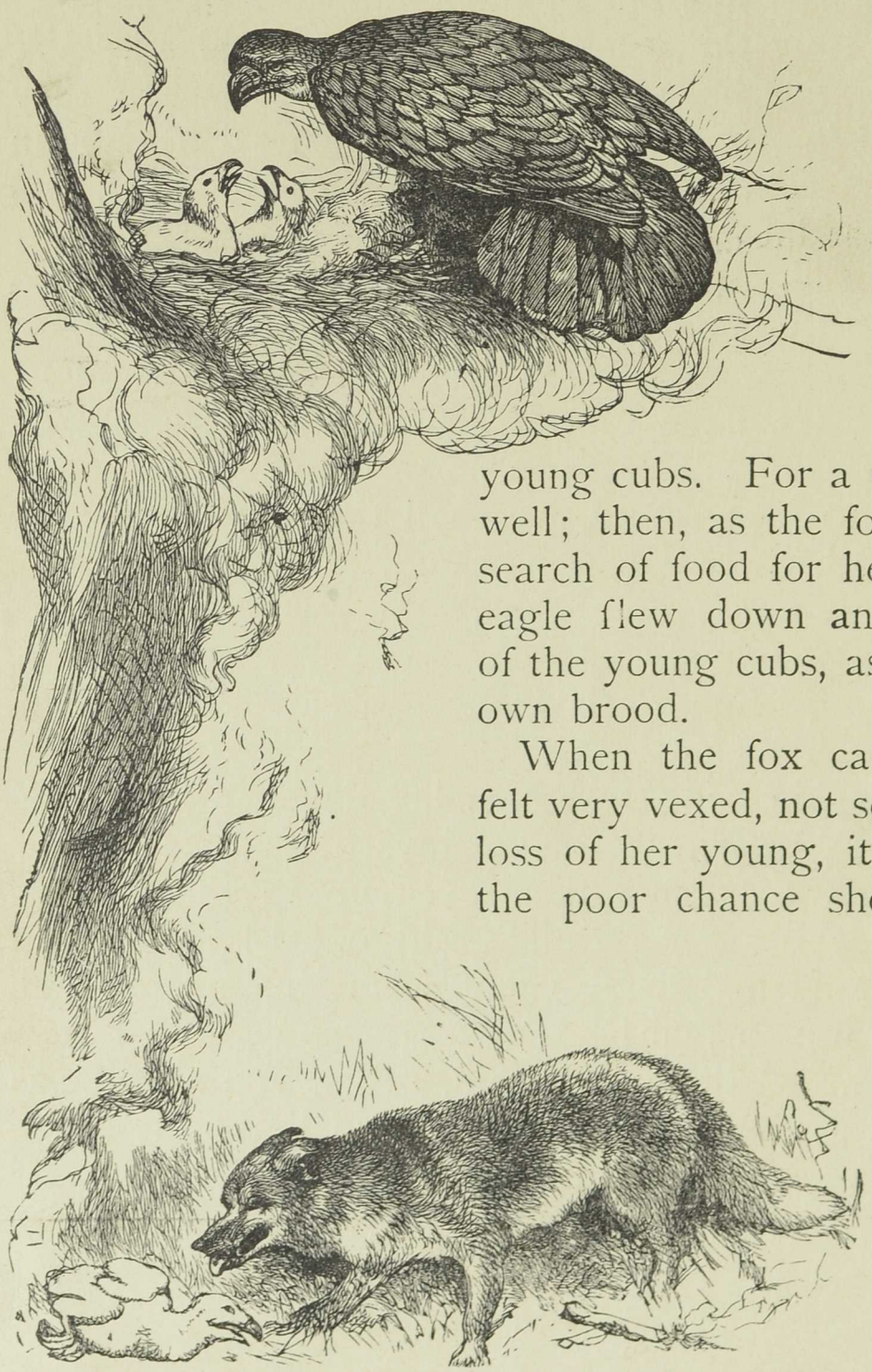
40. THE PLANE TREE.

One hot day in June, two men lay down in the shade of a plane tree, to get out of the rays of the sun, and as they lay there, they cast their eyes up to the boughs. "A plane tree bears no fruit," said one of them. "In good truth," said his friend, "that seems but a poor tree that is of no use to man!"

The plane heard them, and said, "Sirs, you must be as blind as you are bad, to come here and lie in the shade I give, and yet say that I am of no use to man."

41. THE EAGLE AND THE FOX.

An eagle and a fox were firm friends and lived in the same wood. The eagle built her nest in the fork of a tall tree, while the fox lived in the low shrubs near by and there had her young cubs. For a time all went well; then, as the fox was out in search of food for her young, the eagle flew down and caught one of the young cubs, as food for her own brood.



When the fox came back she felt very vexed, not so much at the loss of her young, it is true, as at the poor chance she had to pay the eagle for her bad faith.

A time did come at last for which the fox had long watched.

The eagle one day in

search of food, saw a goat which some men had just placed on a fire; as they left it to get more wood, she seized a piece of the flesh, and took it to her nest. With the meat she took a bit of the fire, and a strong wind soon fanned the spark to a flame.

The eaglets, as the young ones are called, did not yet know how to fly, so they were burnt in their nest and fell one by one to the ground, where the fox in great glee ate them up in sight of the eagle.

42. THE DOG THAT WAS HUNG.

ONCE on a time two sheep met, and one of them said to her friend, "Last night our dog Spring ate a lamb, and then bit the old one to death, as well as the man of the farm." "Dear me," said the friend, "if that be true, in whom can we put our trust?" Thus the news spread, and such was the crime of Spring, who now lay bound, while a group of men sat to judge his case.

Asked what he had to say Spring said, with a firm voice, "For more than ten years I have done my work as a sheep dog should. Last night, as I lay on the ground, a wolf came forth from the wood, sprang at a lamb, and drank its blood, then let fall his prize, and stood at bay. We fought and I slew the wolf. But now, when I saw the lamb, as it lay dead on the grass, I could in no way curb my wish to eat it.

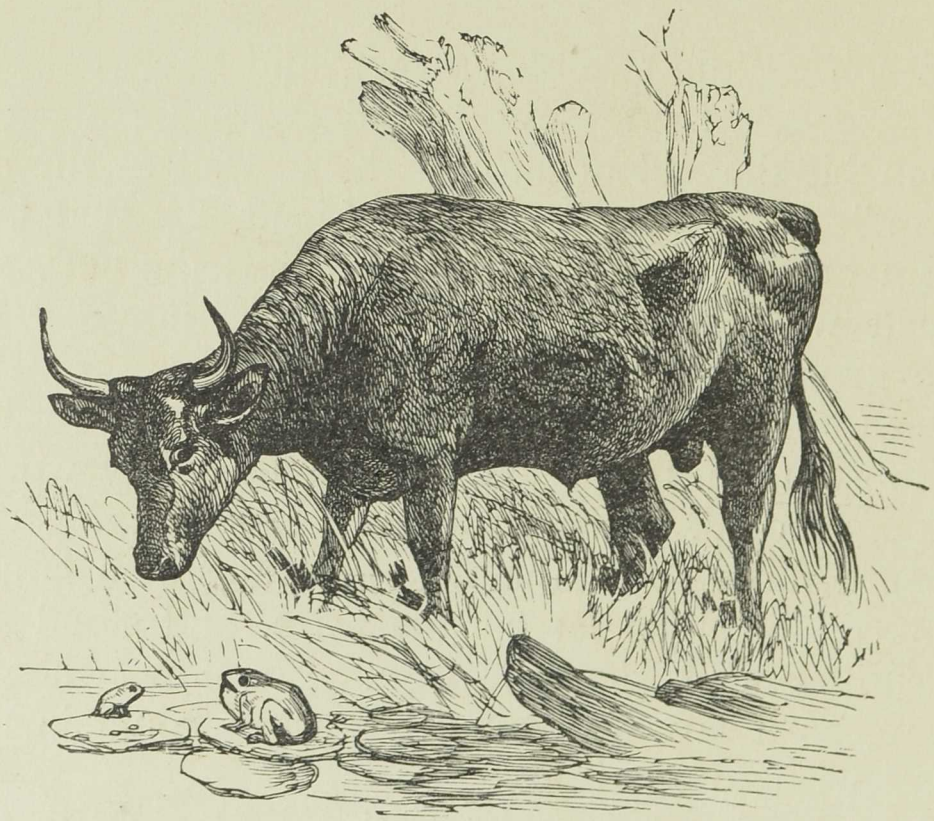
"While I was at my feast, the ewe came up to seek for her young one; so, lest she should charge its death on me, I thought it best to kill her. Just then, up came

the man of the farm, who course of thought that I had put both to death. His eye met mine; he held up his staff; I could not stop; dead men tell no tales, I thought, and so flew at his throat. You know, too well, the rest."

If we do not crush sin in the bud, it will grow strong, and crush us.

43. THE OX AND THE FROG.

An ox, as he drank at a pool, trod on a brood of young frogs, and crushed one of them to death. The old frog,



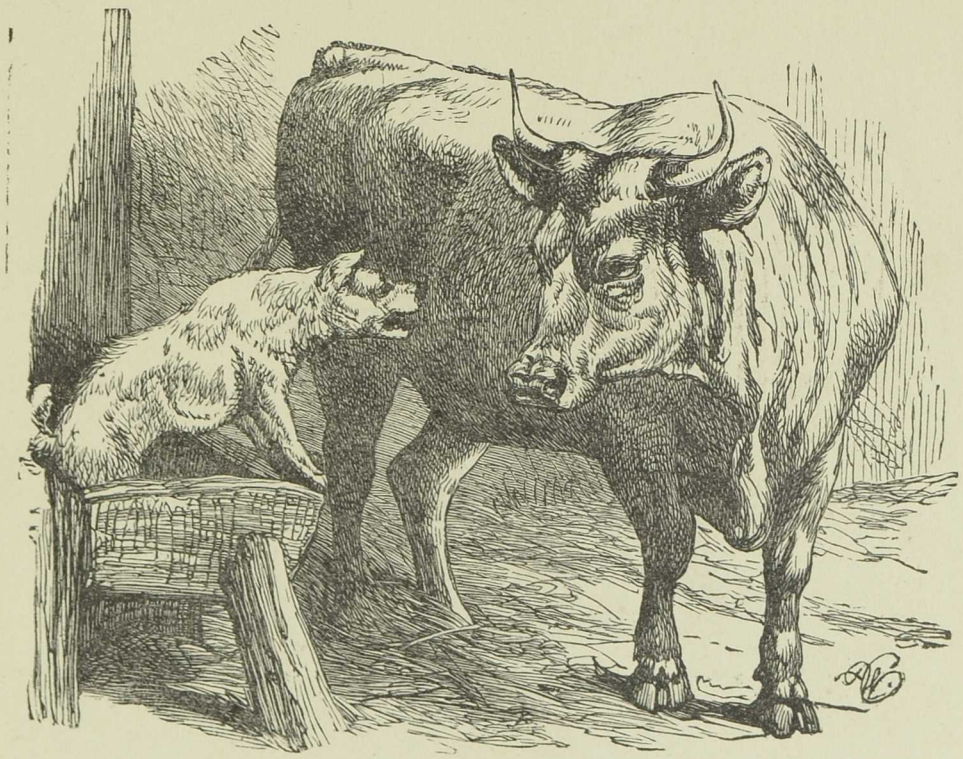
as she came up, missed one of her sons, and asked where he had gone. "He is dead, he is dead; for just now a

huge beast with four great feet came to the pond, and crushed him to death with his heel."

Then the old frog puffed her skin out as large as she could, and asked if the size of the beast was as great as she was. "Cease to puff out," said her son, "and try no more; for you would burst ere you could swell half as large as that beast."

44. THE DOG IN THE STALL.

A DOG one day lay down to sleep in the fresh, sweet hay placed in the stall for the kine, and would not move



when an ox came for his food. The ox in vain tried to get at the hay, but the cur growled and snapped at him, and would not let him eat it.

"A curse rest on thee, thou mean cur!" said the ox in wrath, "thou canst not eat hay, and yet thou wilt not let those eat it who can!"

Then a man on the farm seized the dog by the neck, and laid his whip on his back till he ran off in shame.

45. THE STAG IN THE LAKE.

One hot day, a stag came to quench his thirst at a lake, and stood there to look at his shade from head to foot, as it shone in the clear pool. "What strength is

there," said he, "in this fine pair of horns which branch out with so much grace from each side of my head! If the rest of my form but matched my horns, I would give

place to none. But, ah me! how thin and weak are these poor legs of mine!"

Just then some men, with a pack of hounds that had been on the scent, came near the spot where the stag stood. Off he went, at full speed; and those legs, with which he had just found so much fault, soon took him out of the reach of hounds and men.

But the horns which he was so proud of, by ill luck caught in the boughs of a tree, and held him there till the hounds came to pull him down and put him to death.

46. THE BIRDS, THE BEASTS, AND THE BAT.

The birds and the beasts once went to war. The bat —which could not be said to be bird or beast—at first kept out of the way of both, but when he thought the beasts would win the day, he went to join their ranks, and to prove his right to be there, he said, "Can you find a bird that has two rows of teeth in his head, as I have?"

At last the birds had the best of the fight, so then the bat joined their ranks. "Look," said he, "I have wings, so what else can I be but a bird?"

But the birds did not trust the bat, and as the beasts thought he was false too, he could not get bird or beast to own him. So to this day he hides and skulks in caves and stems of trees, and does not come out till dark, when all the birds of the air have gone to roost, and the beasts of the field are wrapped in sleep.

47. THE KITE, THE SOW, AND THE CAT.

A KITE had built her nest at the top of an old oak, and in a hole half-way up the tree, a wild cat had found a home; while a cave at the foot of the tree made a sty for a sow and her young pigs. For some time they all lived in peace, and might have done so to this day, but for the spite of the cat.

For, first of all, she crept up to the kite, and said, "Good friend, I have news to tell you, which will plunge us both in grief. The old sow does naught else than grub at the foot of the tree, and we all know what that will come to. It is clear that she means to root it up, that she may kill your young ones. For my part, I will take care of my own kits, and you can do as you please: but you may be sure I shall watch her well, though I were to stay at home for a month to do it."

When she had said this to the kite, she went down and made a call on the sow at the foot of the tree. She put on a grave face, and said, "I hope you do not mean to go out?" "Why not?" said the sow. "Well," said she, "you may do as you please of course, but I heard the kite say to her brood that she would treat them with a pig the first time she saw you go out; and I do not feel sure that she may not take one of *my* young ones at the same time. So good-day to you, for I must look at home, you see." With these words she went back to her hole.

The plan that puss had in her head was to steal out at night for her prey, and keep all day near her hole, that the sow and the kite might think she was in great fear. This plan put them both in such a fright, that the kite

did not dare to stir out in search of food, for fear of the sow, nor, the sow for fear of the kite; and the end of it all was that they and their young ones were all kept in their homes to starve and die, and so at last were made a prey of by the cat.

48. THE APE AND HER YOUNG ONES.

An ape, had two young ones; one of them had good looks, but the other had a plain face. The old ape had a great love for her fine child, but did not care at all for the plain one. One day, when by chance the old dam had to flee from her foes, she caught up the fine young ape in her arms, but left the plain one to get on as best it could, so it leapt on the dam's back, and off they set.

The old ape ran so fast to save her pet, that in her haste its head was caught by the branch of a tree, and it fell down dead from the blow; but the plain one clung on tight to the dam's rough back, and so came off safe and sound.

The pet child may die from too much care.

49. THE HORSE, THE WOLF, AND THE FOX

A fox one night had been out some hours in the snow in search of food, and yet had found none. At last he met a wolf who was in need of food too, and he said to him, "Do you see the horse in that field? Well, I think if you lend me your help, I could kill him."

When they came up to the horse, the fox was much struck to find how small his size was by the side of him. "May I know your name," asked the fox, "and that of the man who owns you?" "My name is Squire," said the horse; "I have not yet heard the man's name, but I think if you wish to know it you can see the stamp on my shoe."

The sly fox, who made a good guess at what this meant, said, "Well, I do not know how to read, but"—here he gave a low bow to the wolf—"my friend has a gift that way." The wolf, who was made quite vain by this soft speech, came up to read the name, but as he bent down his head to do so, Squire gave him a kick, which broke his skull in two.

50. THE OX AND THE CALF.

In days of old, a calf that ran wild in some fields near Rome, and had not yet felt the yoke, said to an old ox, "Poor slave! How can you drudge on in this way from day to day with a plough at your tail? Look at me, see how I skip and play!" The ox said not a word, but went on with his work.

The next day there was a great feast held at Rome, so the ox did not go to the plough; but his friend the calf was led off in great pomp, with a wreath round his neck, to be slain. "If this is the end of your gay life," said the ox, "let me drudge on at the plough, for the yoke is more to my mind than the axe."

Of two ills, choose the least.

51. THE WOLVES AND THE SHEEP.

THE wolves and the sheep had been for a long time at war. At last the wolves said, "It is the dogs that are the cause of it all; they bark if we do but come near you. Now, if you will but send them off from your heels, we, on our part, will give up our young ones to you."

The poor sheep thought that quite fair; but as soon as the change was made, the young cubs set up a howl for want of their dams. On this the old wolves said that the peace was at an end; so they fell on the sheep, who, as they had lost their best friends, the dogs, had none now to help them, and were torn to death by the wolves.

52. THE ROSE AND THE CLAY.

A MAN in the East by chance took up a piece of clay which lay in his path, and was struck to find it smell sweet. "It is but a poor piece of clay," said he, "a mean clod of earth, yet how sweet is it! How fresh! But where has this scent come from?" The clay said, "I have lived with the rose."

Make friends with the good if you wish to be like them.

53. THE KID AND THE WOLF.

A YOUNG kid that would stray from the herd saw a wolf, and did her best to get out of his reach; but when she found that all hope was lost, she said, "Sir Wolf, I know

that I am to die at your hands, so, as my life will now be but short, I pray of you to let it be a gay one. Now do you play me a tune while I dance."

So the wolf piped, and the kid danced up and down to

please him. A pack of hounds who heard the sounds, ran up to see who was there, and gave chase to the wolf. Then the wolf ran off as fast as his legs would take him, and the kid came home safe with a hop, a skip and a jump.

54. THE COCK AND THE FOX.

A FOX, who came to a farm at break of day, was caught in a trap, which had been put there for that end. A cock, who sat on the bough of a tree, did not at first dare to

go near so sly a foe; but when he saw that the fox could not stir from the spot, he came down from the tree to speak to him.

The fox said, "Dear bird, you see what has come to me, and all for your sake; for as I crept through the hedge, on my way home, I felt I must come to ask how you are. And now may I beg of you to fetch me a knife to cut this wire."

The cock spoke not, but flew off as fast as he could to tell the news to the men on the farm, who soon came up with a knife with which to cut the wire, and kill the fox. The cock said that he thought those who spoke like a dove should live like a dove too.

55. THE FLY AND THE ANT.

A FLY and an ant came to words as to which stood first in rank. The fly said, "How can you place your low state by the side of mine? Look how I soar up in the air, skip round the head of a king, and kiss the lips of a queen! I toil not nor stoop to work, but live a life of ease. What is there you can have to say to this?"

"Why," said the ant, in a sharp tone, "to be made much of by kings and queens is a great thing I grant, if they send for you, but not if they think you a pest. In good truth, I think it is but your small size that screens you from their wrath. As to work, you will learn the use of it when the frost and snow pinch, and the cold winds

blow, while I shall reap the fruits of my toil. To be frank with you, I think you will find it true: no pains, no gains."

One tale is good, till the next is told.

56. THE TWO GOATS.

Two goats that had been brought up in the same glen, left it, and by chance met on a bridge, which was a mere plank, and where there was not room for them both, side by side. One of the goats set her foot on the end of it, and her friend was not slow to do the same.

They came on, step by step, till they met half-way, and as they could not pass, and were both too proud to give in, each did her best to push by with a skip and jump, till at last the plank broke, and they both fell in the stream and were drowned.

It is better to clear the way than fall in the ditch.

57. THE MAN AND THE SNAKE.

A CHILD that was at play in a field, by chance trod on a snake which stung him to death. A man, in a great rage, hit the snake a blow which struck off his tail. The next day he came to the snake's hole to coax him out with some salt and meal, that he might kill him.

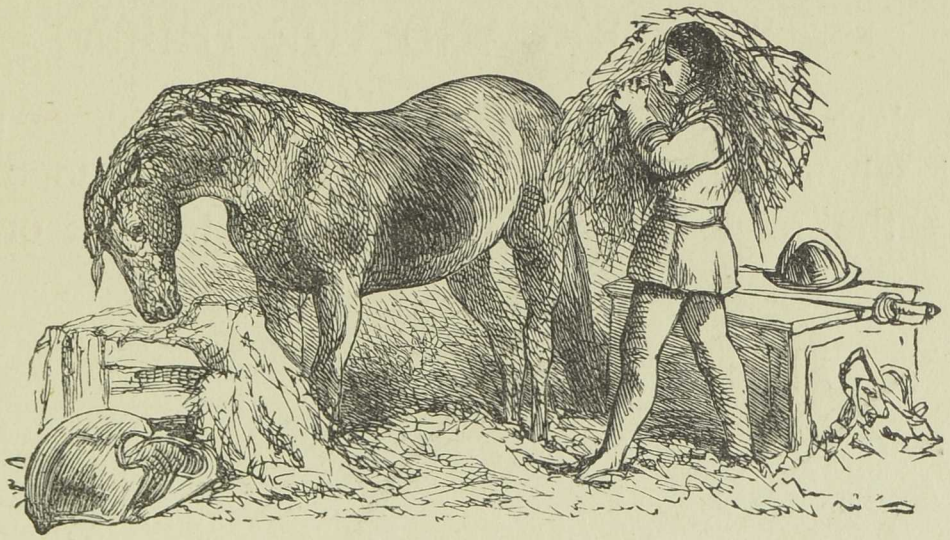
"I pray thee come forth," said the man, "and let us be friends," but he could in no way get the snake to leave his hole. All the snake would do was to give a hiss, and tell him that as long as he thought of the dead child, and

he (the snake) thought of the loss of his tail, they could not be friends.

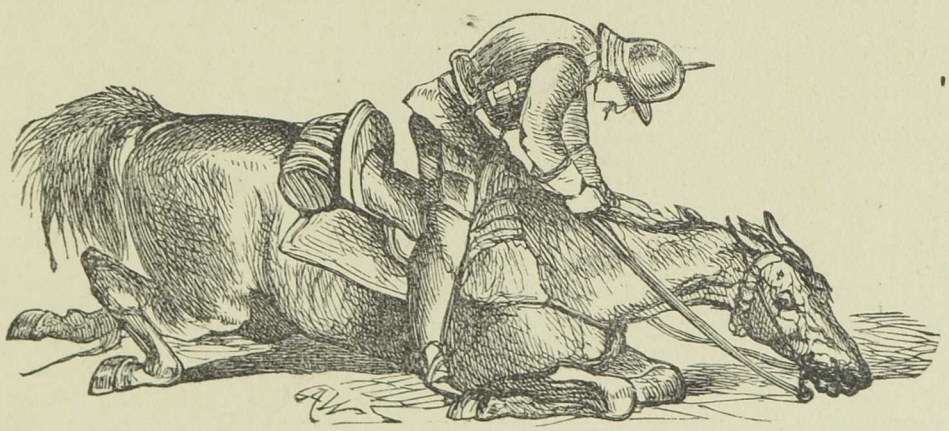
He who does you a wrong is sure not to love you.

58. THE WAR HORSE.

THERE was a man who in time of war took great pains with his horse, and fed him on as much corn and hay as



he could eat. But when the war was at an end all he

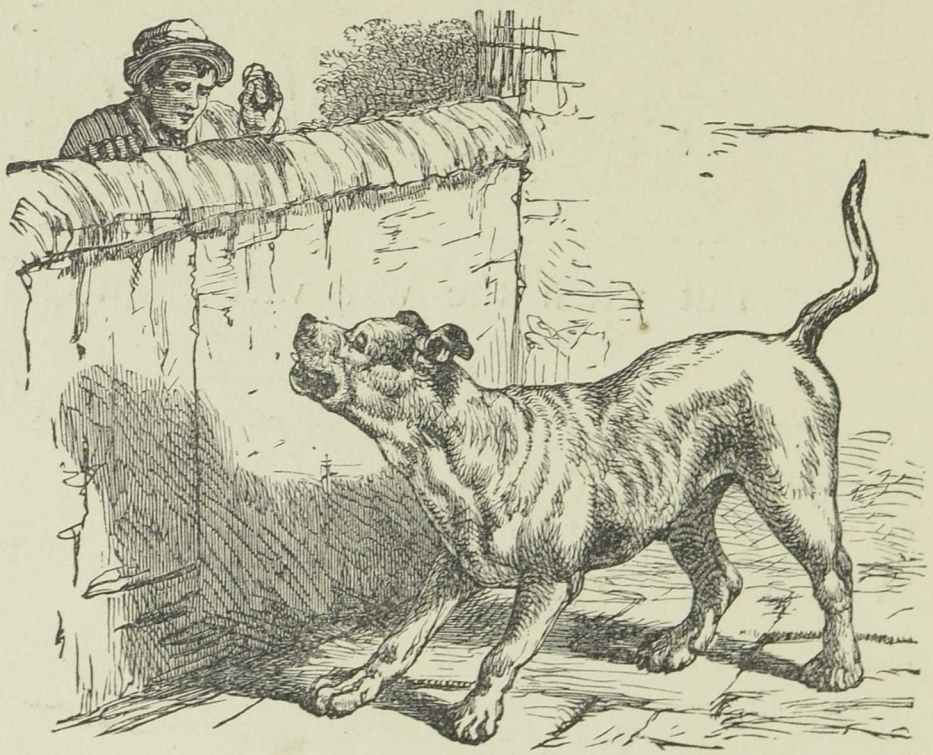


gave him was chaff, and he put him to draw great loads of wood; in short, made a slave and a drudge of him.

When the war broke out once more, and there was a call to arms, the man, clad in his coat of mail, sprang on the back of his steed, and went off to join the fight. But soon the horse fell down with all his weight of steel. "You must now go to the war on foot," said he; "for if you turn me from a horse to an ass, how can you think that I can all at once turn from an ass to a horse?"

59. THE DOG AND THE THIEF.

One dark night a thief came to a man's house to rob it, and when the dog heard him he gave a loud bark. At this the man sprang from his bed to look out, but



saw no one, nor did he hear the least sound, so he bade the dog be still, and then went back to sleep.

The thief in the meantime had hid in the shed in a state of great fear; but when he found that the dog was tied to a chain, and did not now bark, he crept to the door of the house, and took out his bunch of false keys to try the lock.

The dog saw him, and set up his loud bark; so the man of the house put his head out once more to look round him, but as he saw no one, and found that all was now quite still, in a great rage he cries out, "Down, you brute! Down, I tell you! you will not let me have a wink of sleep!" So the dog left off, and in the meantime the thief made his way into the house, and stole all that he could find.

The next day, when the man saw what had been done, he said, "This will teach me to give ear to the voice of a warm and true friend when he warns me."

60. THE ASS AND THE LAMB.

An ass once lay down in a shed that he might shirk his work, and make known to those who were near what a lot he had to do. All the beasts, great and small, came to lend him help.

At the same time a poor meek lamb lay at the point of death from want of food, but none came to give her help. "How is it," said he, "that I lie here in so much need of care, whilst the ass gets all this help?"

A fox, who heard her, said, "The ass knows well that the loud bray which he gives by way of thanks, makes

the kind acts of his friends well known, and so it swells their pride to help him."

A good deed may spring from a bad heart.

61. THE AXE AND THE TREES.

ONCE on a time a man came to a wood to ask the trees if they would give him a stick for his axe. This was so small a thing to ask, that the chief trees said at once, "By all means, give him what he wants from a good tough ash." But as soon as the man had made the stick fit in the axe, he fell to work with it to cut and fell down all the best trees in the wood.

An old oak was heard to say in sad tones to the beech tree, "The first step has lost us all. But for this we might all have stood for an age to come; now we must take our sad fate for our pains."

62. THE BEES AND THE SNAIL.

A SNAIL, one day, made his way through the hole of a bee-hive, where, in a great rage, the bees flew round him, and stung him to death. But they soon found that the snail, when dead, was a worse foe than when he had life, for the air in the hive was not fit to breathe.

What was to be done! He was of too great size for the bees to turn him out, so they had to leave the hive; and they found to their cost, that they ought to have let the poor snail crawl out just as he had come in. The

bees made a long search for a new home, but in vain, so they went back to their old hive to see what could be done with the dead snail.

And at last they all set to work to build a case of wax round the shell of the snail, so as to close him in a sort of box; and thus they made the hive once more as sweet as the stores that were laid up in the combs.

When things come to the worst, they will mend if we set to work with a will.

63. THE FOX AND THE STORK.

One day the fox had a mind to play a trick with the stork, and said, "You must come and dine with me to-day, for I have had luck, and the soup will be rich." When the time came for them to dine, the stork found to her grief that the dish in which the soup was put was so flat that she could but dip in the point of her bill, while the fox could lap it up with his tongue.

"It grieves me," said he, "to see you make so poor a meal; I fear it is not to your mind."

One day the stork told her friend the fox that it was now his turn to come and dine with her. So the fox came, true to the hour. "Good-day," said the stork. "Now I hope you will feel that you are quite at home."

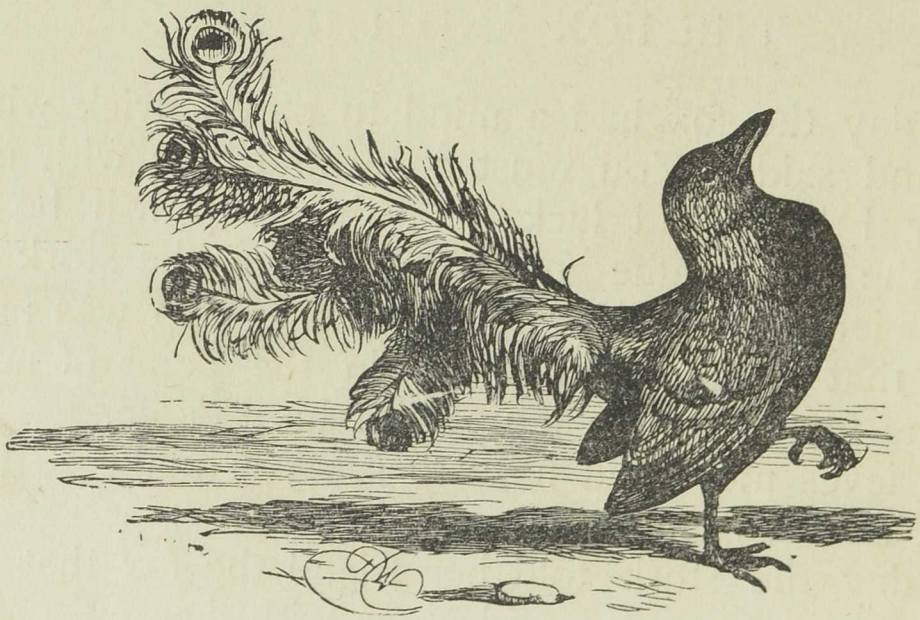
The smell of the stew was fine, but it was put in a jar with a thin neck, down which the stork thrust her long bill with ease, but all the fox could do was to lick the brim of it; and when the time came for him to take his

leave, he made his bow with a bad grace. The stork told him that she had but paid him off in his own coin.

Tit for tat.

64. THE DAW AND THE JAY.

ONCE on a time there was a daw, who was so vain, that he must needs leave his old friends (the jacks), and try to pass for a jay. So he stuck the bright plumes that fell from those gay birds on his own back, that he might look like them. But they soon found him out, took off



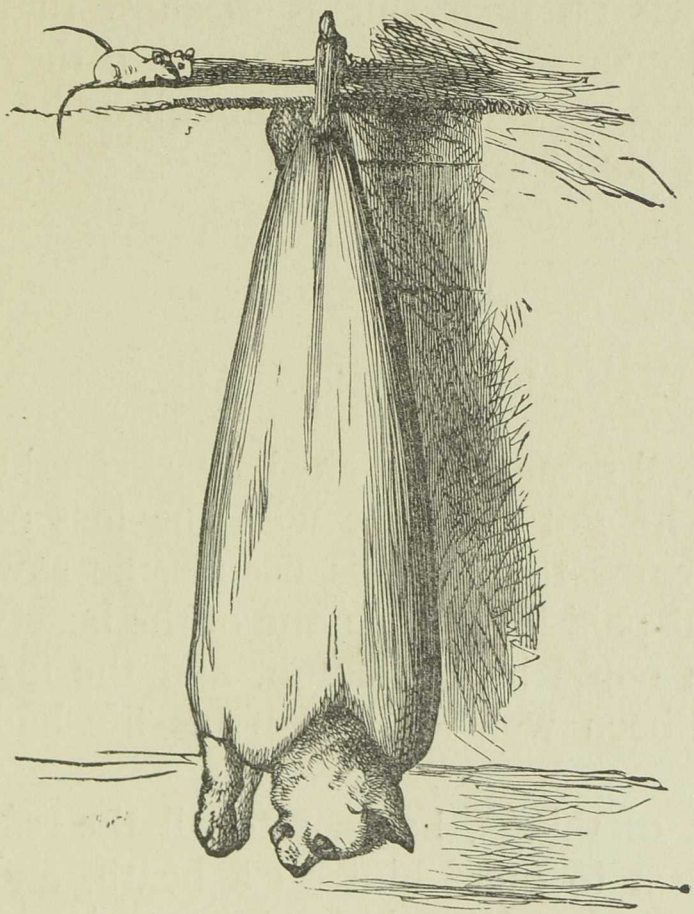
his plumes, fell on him with their sharp bills, and made him smart for his pride.

Full of shame, he hung down his head, and once more went to live with those of his own tribe, but they knew his vain ways too well, and told him they would not own him. One of them said, "If you had been true to your

own friends, you would not have had such hard cuts from those you have just left, nor would you have had to bear the slights which we now feel we must put on you."

65. THE CAT AND THE MICE.

An old dame dwelt in a house that had such swarms of mice in it that she got a cat, who caught and ate them one by one. But in course of time all the mice kept on the top shelves to be out of the cat's reach, and puss saw that at this rate she would starve. So she hit on a plan, which was to hang in a bag, by her hind legs, from a peg in the shelf, that she might pass for dead.



The young mice took no heed of her, but the old ones gave a peep round the edge of the shelf, and said, "Ah, you sly thing! We see you! Hang there as long as you please, but we would not trust a child of ours to go near you, though you were full of straw."

Old birds are not caught with chaff.

66. THE OWLS AND THE WREN.

Two owls sat on a branch of a tree. "How strange is it," said one of them, "that in the old days, men best knew our worth, for owls were then thought to be the type of all that is wise."

"Not so," said the wren, who heard them, "for if you were less vain and proud, you would know well that in those days men wore owls on their shields to show that they should not judge by mere looks. If they did, they would take an owl to be a wise bird; for, though he has a large head, he has but small sense."

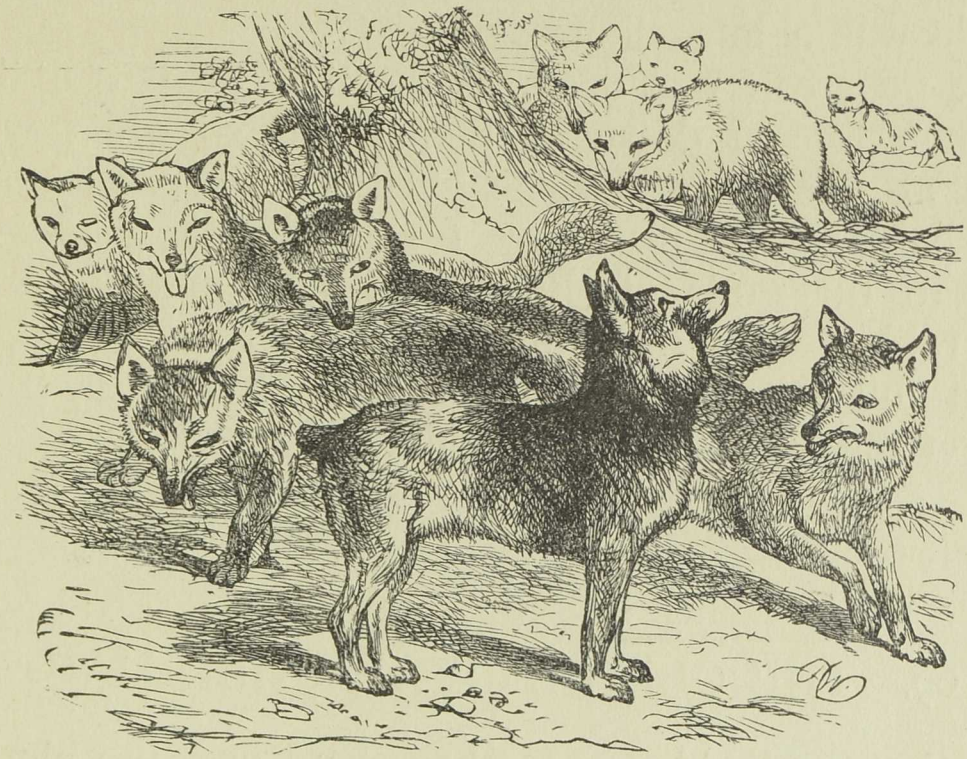
67. THE FOX WHO LOST HIS TAIL.

A FOX who went to steal some young chicks was caught in a trap, from which he got free, but with the loss of his tail; and when he came to meet his friends, he saw how high a price he had paid for it, for none of the beasts who stole a look at him could hide a laugh, and the fox thought it would have been well for him if his life had gone with the "brush."

But, to make the best of things, he sent to all the rest of his race to beg of them to meet him on a heath, and there the fox made this speech, "I would have you, friends, all cut off your tails. You know not the ease with which I can now move. Of what use is the tail to us? If we creep through a hole in the hedge, as we fly from the hounds, it stops us in the way. It is the 'brush,' you

know, that man strives for in the hunt; and then, too, in spite of all we can do, it is apt to be caught in the trap."

A sly old fox who heard him, said, with a smile on



his face, "It strikes me that you would not so much care to see us part with our tails, if you had a chance to get your own back!"

Bought wit is the best.

68. THE MAN AND THE BULL.

A MAN who took care of kine in some great woods, lost one day a young bull from the fold. He sought for a long time, but could find no sign of it; then he said

that if he could find the thief who stole the calf, he would kill and burn a lamb to the gods who ruled in those woods. At last as he reached the top of a small hill, he saw a short way from him at its foot, the lost calf, but at its side was a huge lion.

The poor calf was dead, as the lion ate part of it while the man looked down at them; and so great was his fright at the scene, that he lifted his eyes and hands on high, and said, "Just now I said that I would give a lamb to the gods of the woods if I could but find out who robbed me; now that I have seen the thief, I will add a full grown bull to the calf I have lost, if I may but get out of his reach and not be hurt."

69. THE OLD DAME AND HER MAIDS.

In the good old times, when there were no clocks, an old dame kept a cock in her yard, which at dawn of day gave a loud crow, and then she got up to rouse her maids, that they might go to their work. But they thought it hard to be woke out of their sweet sleep at such an hour, so, one day, they wrung the cock's neck.

The next morn the old dame slept till late in the day, as she had not heard the cock crow; but when she found that he was dead, and that there was now no means by which to tell the time, she went at all hours of the night to wake up her maids, for fear they should sleep too long.

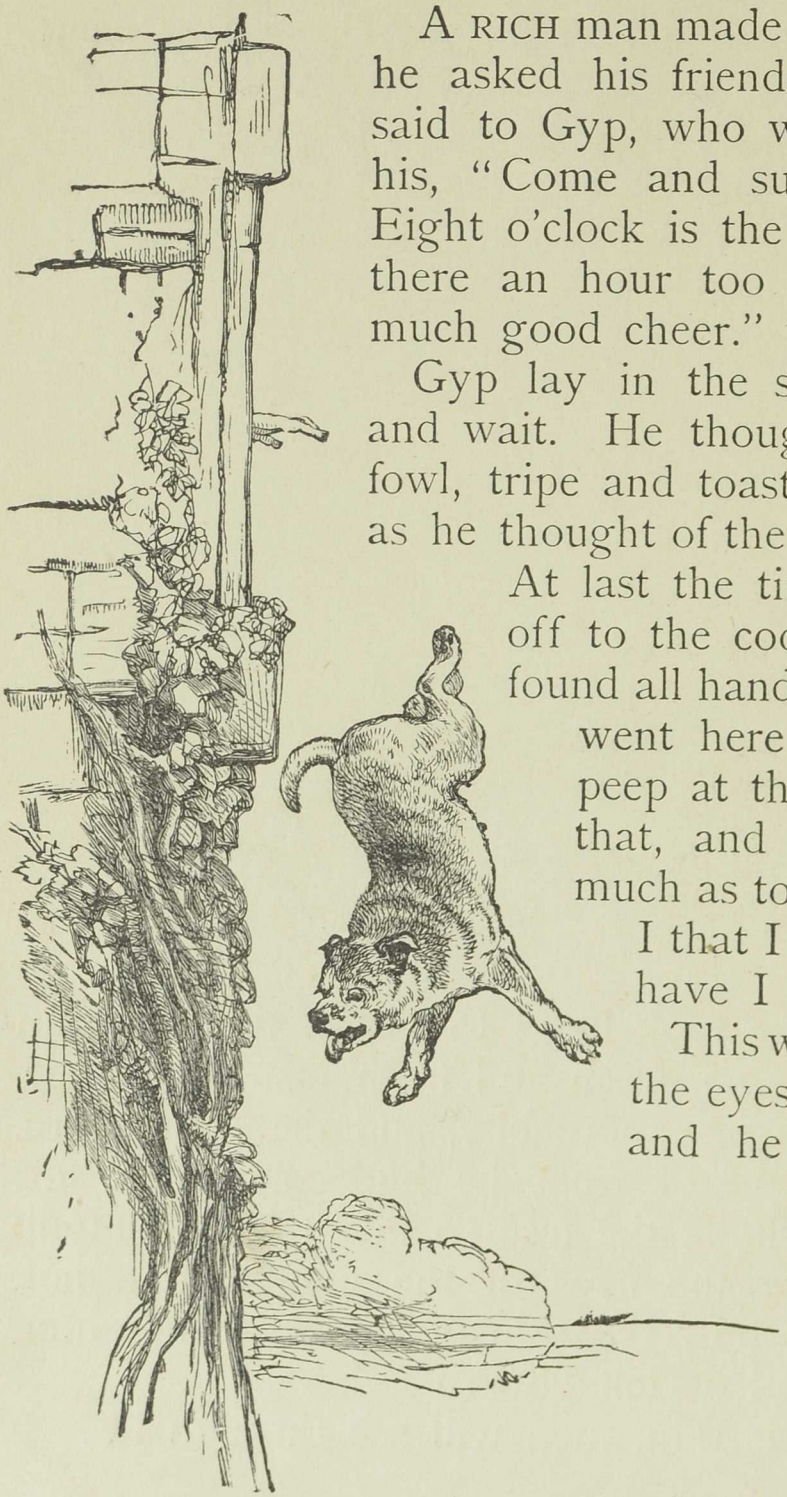
70. THE HART AND THE VINE.

SOME men sought out a hart for the chase, when one made a rush out of the wood, and hid from them in the leaves of a thick vine, so that they quite lost sight of him. It was the best hide and seek that could be, so thought the stag, but he hid not for sport, but for dear life. There he lay, still as a mouse.

In a short time he took heart to eat of the leaves of the vine, which hung so green and fresh just at his nose. He saw no harm in one more bite, and then one more, till he quite lost sight of what he had come there for. More than this, he shook the tree so much when he took a bite, that he drew the eyes of the men to the spot, and as the vine was now too thin of leaves to hide him, they shot at him, and he fell down dead.

Where the hedge is thin, men will see through it.

71. THE DOG WHO WENT OUT TO SUP.



A RICH man made a great feast to which he asked his friends, and his dog Tray said to Gyp, who was a great friend of his, "Come and sup with us to night. Eight o'clock is the time; but if you are there an hour too soon, you will find much good cheer."

Gyp lay in the sun a while, to wink and wait. He thought of fish, fles hand fowl, tripe and toast, and licked his lips as he thought of the good chance he had.

At last the time came, and he set off to the cook's room, where he found all hands hard at work. Gyp went here and there; gave a peep at this dish, and smelt at that, and wagged his tail, as much as to say, "How glad am I that I came! What a feast have I in store!"

This wag of the tail brought the eyes of the cook on him, and he said, "How now? what's this I spy? A cur! who let him in? A nice sort of thing, to be sure. I shall soon pack him off." The cook then

took hold of poor Gyp by the back of his neck, and threw him out at the door.

There's oft a slip 'twixt cup and lip.

72. THE WOLF IN A SHEEP'S SKIN.

ONCE on a time a wolf put on a sheep's skin, by which means he got shut in the fold at night. By-and-by the man of the farm came in to kill one of his flock for food, and as luck would have it, he chose out the wolf. But when he saw who it was, he put a rope round his neck, and hung him to the branch of a tree.

Some folk who came by said, "What! do you hang sheep?" "No," said the man, "but I hang a wolf when I catch him, though in the coat of a sheep."

If you seek harm you way find harm.

73. THE APE, THE WOLF, AND THE FOX.

A WOLF one day brought a fox up to the Judge for theft. The ape, who was the judge, knew well that both were knaves; so he said, "I know you well of old, my friends; and as I wish to be just, I shall lay the fine on both of you; on you, Sir Wolf, for you have no right to bring the charge; and on you, Sir Fox, for there can be no doubt that the charge is a true one."

Set a thief to catch a thief.

74. THE FROG, THE MOUSE, AND THE HAWK.

By chance a mouse made friends with a frog, who spent his life for the most part in a pool. The frog one day, by way of sport, tied the foot of the mouse to his own, and step by step led him to the pool in which he spent most of his time. At last he got to the brink, when he gave

a leap which took them both in the midst of the pond.

The frog, who was fond of a swim, went now here, now there, with a loud croak which would seem to say that all was right, and that he was pleased with what he had done.

But the poor mouse could not stand this long, as the dry ground was his home, and he was soon seen to float on the pool quite dead, but still tied fast to the frog. By-and-by a hawk flew down and stuck his claws in the mouse, and went off with him; but as the frog could not

get loose from the mouse, he had to share the same fate, and the hawk made a meal of both.

If you hatch harm, you will catch harm.

75. THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN.

THE north wind and the sun once came to high words as to which had the most strength. Just then by chance a man came by, so they let the point rest on this, that he who got the man's cloak off first, should win the day.

The wind was the first to try, and he blew with all his might and main a fierce blast; but the more the wind tried the more the man wrapped his cloak close round him.

Next came the sun, who shone out with his warm beams, and cast his rays on the man, till at last he grew faint with the heat, and was glad to part with his cloak, which he flung to the ground.

Kind means are the best.

76. THE FOX AND THE CAT.

A FOX and a cat once met on a heath, and had a long chat. The fox said, "Let the hunt turn out as bad as it may, it is all one to me, for I have lots of plans by which to save my life. But now, pray tell me, puss, if the foe should come, what course do you mean to take?" "Well," said the cat, "I have but one trick left, and if that will not do, I am lost."

Just then a pack of hounds came on them in full cry. Puss, by the help of her one trick, ran up a tree, from the top branch of which she saw that the fox, who had not the skill to get out of sight, was torn to death by the hounds.

"Great boast, small roast," said the cat, "but he plays well that wins."

77. THE KID THAT MOCKED THE WOLF.

A YOUNG kid who stood on the roof of a house, out of harm's way, saw a wolf pass by, and set to work to taunt

and tease his foe. But the wolf said, "I hear you. Yet it is not you who mock me, but the roof on which you stand."

78. THE WOLF AND THE FOX.

A FOX fell down a deep well, in the sides of which he stuck his claws, and so, for a while, kept his head up.

A wolf came to take a peep down the well, and when the fox saw him, he said, "Oh, I beg of you to run for a rope, or some such thing, to pull me out, for I am at the point of death!"

"Poor friend! you are in a sad way," said the wolf; "I grieve for you, with all my heart! How long have you been here?" "Nay," said the fox, "if you wish me well, don't stand there to say kind words to me, but get me some help, and that soon, or I must die."

The wolf then gave one more sigh, and went home, and the poor fox sank, to rise no more.

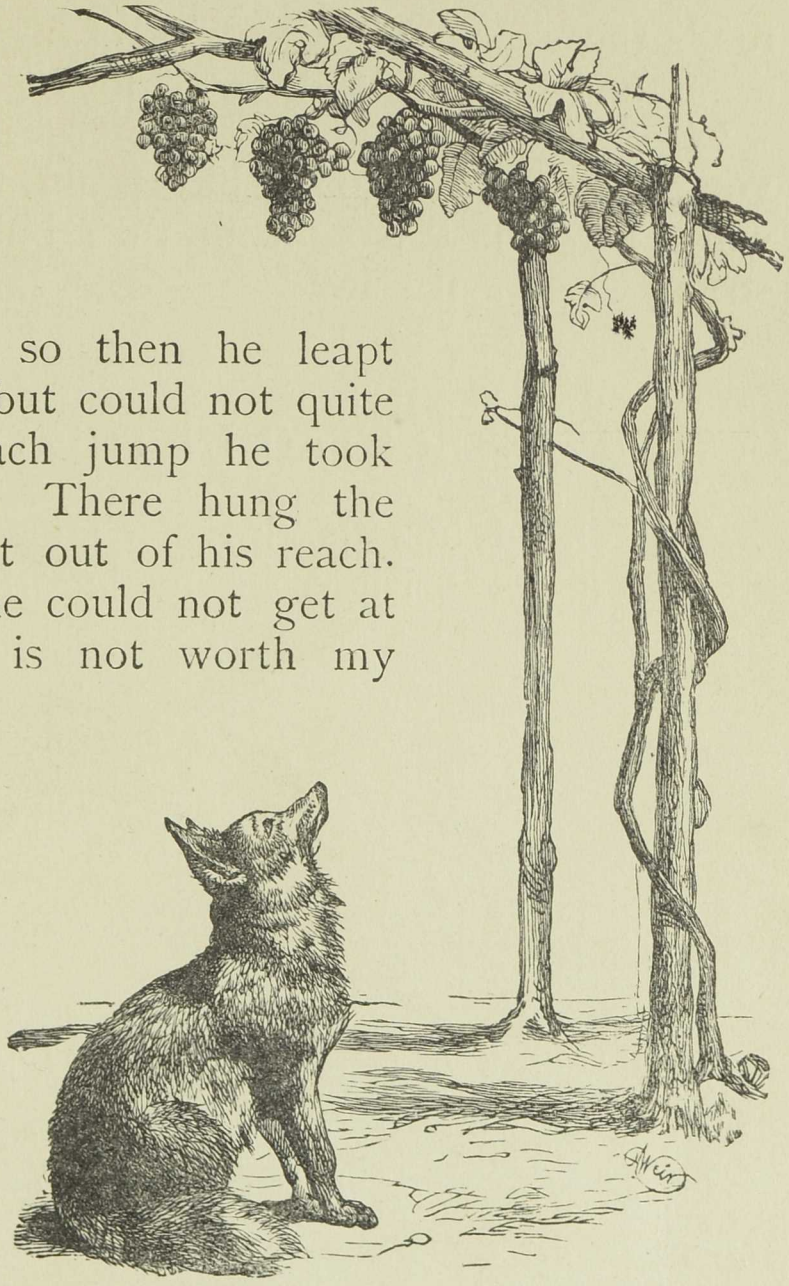
79. THE DOVE AND THE ANT.

A HOT day in June drove a poor ant to take a sip from a clear brook, when she fell in, and went down with the stream. A dove that sat in a tree close by saw the ant fall, so she threw a leaf down to her in the brook, which the ant clung to, and so was brought safe to land.

In a few days from this time, the ant saw a man take aim with his bow to shoot the dove, and just in the nick of time, she stung him on the heel. This made him give a start, and spoilt his aim, so that the dove flew off safe and sound.

Be kind when you can. Live, and let live.

80. THE FOX AND THE GRAPES.



ONE hot day a fox saw some grapes which hung from a vine on a wall, and he took a spring to seize them, but made too short a bound; so then he leapt with all his might, but could not quite reach them, and each jump he took was still too short. There hung the fine ripe grapes, but out of his reach. Then, as he found he could not get at them, he said, "It is not worth my while to try, for the grapes are sour. They are not so ripe as I thought they were."

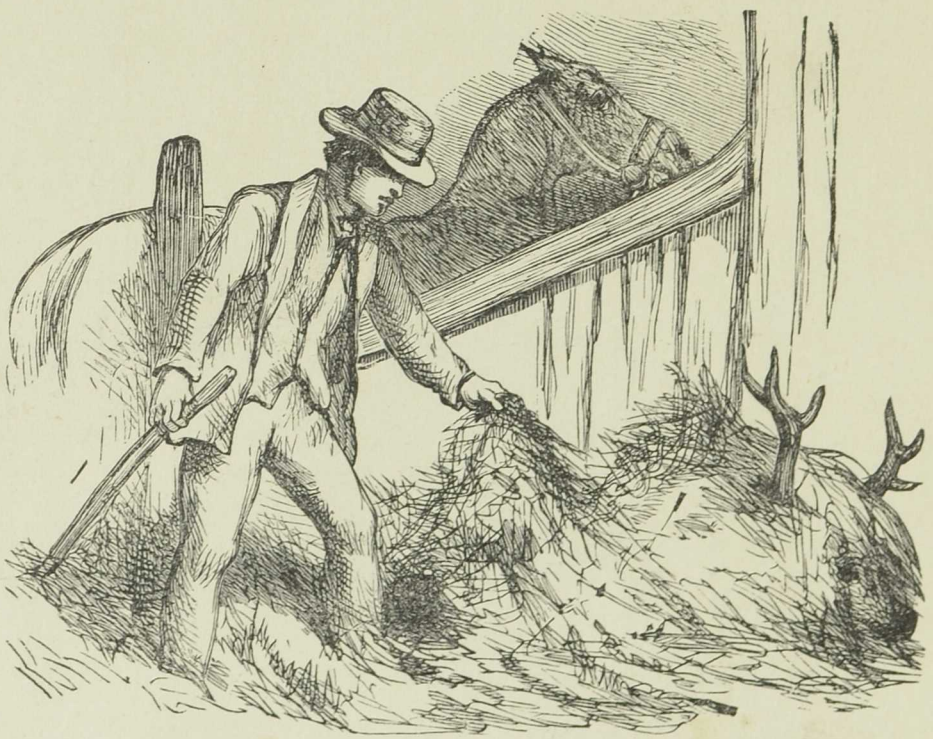
81. THE DRUM AND THE VASE.

A DRUM was heard to boast, in these words, to a vase of sweet herbs: "Hark at my loud, strong tone which rends the sky. When men hear my voice they march to arms, and join the fight with joy!"

"Be not too proud," said the vase; "as for me, I grant you that I speak not, but I am full of sweet smells, while thou hast naught in thee but noise, and must be struck to give it out."

82. THE STAG IN THE OX'S STALL.

A PACK of hounds drove a poor stag out of a wood, and in a great fright he made off to a farm that was near, and hid in a heap of straw in an ox's stall.



"What can have brought you to such a place as this, where you are sure to meet with your doom?" asked the ox.

"Oh," cried the stag, "if you will but help to hide me for a while, I shall do well, and by-and-by I will move off."

It grew dusk, and the men on the farm came in and out, but did not see the stag, so now he thought it time to leave.

"Nay," said the ox, "wait a while; there is the man who owns the farm to come yet, and should he pass this way, I would not give the straw you hide in for your life."

While the ox spoke, the man came up and cast his eyes on the stag, and made a prize of him. "That is a bad game," said he, "where none wins."

83. THE MAN, THE HORSE, AND THE ASS.

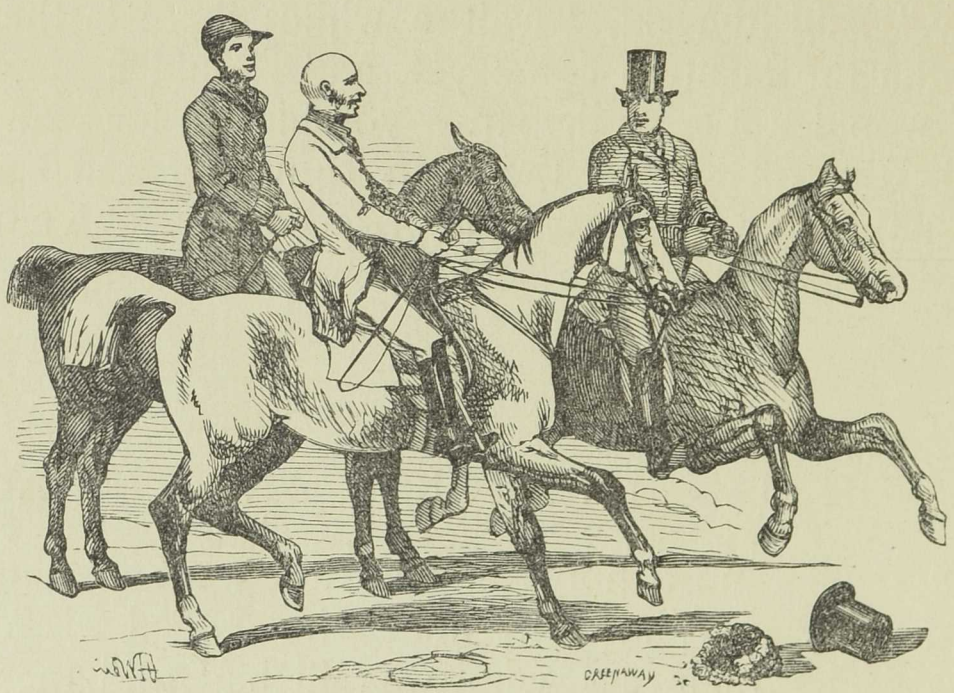
Once on a time a horse and an ass went on the high road, side by side, and the man who owned them went on foot. The poor ass who was ill had told the horse that if he would share the load with him he should soon get well; but if he did not lend him some help, the weight of it would kill him.

But the horse took no heed of this, and bade him go on, till from the weight of the load he fell down dead. When the man found the poor ass dead, he put the load on the back of the horse, and the dead ass too.

One may bear till his back break.

84. THE BALD KNIGHT.

In the good old times there was a brave knight who had lost all his hair, and wore a wig. As he rode in the hunt a gust of wind blew his wig off, and a loud laugh rang forth from those who saw his bald head.



When the knight found his wig was in the air, he, of course, felt much put out, for it was his false hair that made him look young; but he thought the best way to pass it off would be to laugh as well; so he said, "How could I hope to keep strange hair on my head, when my own would not stay there!"

85. THE MULES AND THE THIEVES.

Two mules were on the road, one of which had bags of gold on his back, and rang his bells with a proud toss of the neck, as if he felt proud of his load; his mate took but sacks of grain, and hung down his head as he walked.

They had not gone far, when three thieves, who lay in wait for them in a wood close by, ran out, took the bags of gold from off the back of the proud mule, and cut him with their swords. The mule then cried out with pain from his wounds.

But the mule who had the sacks of grain was quite safe, and said he was glad that he was not thought so much of, for he was best off in the end.

86. THE FIELD OF CORN

An old man had a field, and when he fell ill, he sent for his three sons, that he might take leave of them, and tell them his last wish. "My sons," said he, "there is one thing which, with my last breath, I charge you to do, and that is, to seek out a rich gift which I have left you, and which you will find in my field——" Here the poor old man's voice grew faint, and his head sank down on his breast in death.

The sons were in too much grief for their loss to do that which the old man had bade them do, till want drove them to seek for what they thought must be a hoard of gold in the field. So they made a search from end to

end of it, till there was not a clod they did not turn, in the hunt. At last they gave it up.

"It is strange that the old man should have set us on this long search for a thing that is not here," said Jack.

"Come," said Dick, "since we have gone through so much toil on the field, we may as well sow it with corn, and so make the most of it."

At this bright thought they set to work to sow the grain, and in due time a crop sprang up, five times as large as the crops which grew there in the old man's time. The thought now struck the youths that this was the wealth the old man meant, and that it was his wish that they should earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

Seek till you find, and you will not lose by the toil.

87. THE BLIND MAN AND THE LAME MAN.

ONCE on a time, as a blind man went on his way, he came to a bad part of the road, and knew not how to get on. By chance a lame man sat on a bank close by, so the blind man said to him, "Hark you to what I say. I have thought of a plan which will help us both on our way—my feet shall be thy feet, and thine eyes shall be mine."

"With all my heart," said the lame man; and off they set.

When they had gone down the road some way.

"Stop," called the lame man, "I see a purse on the road, and if you go straight on, I will tell you when you come to it." This the blind man did, and at last he picked it up.

"Give it to me," said the lame man, who was on the blind man's back.

"Not so," said his friend; "but for my feet you would not have come so far, so now I shall keep it."

"Nay," said the lame man; "but for my eyes you would not have known it was there."

88. THE JAY AND THE OWL.

One day an old owl, who sat in a dark barn, had a call from a jay. The owl sat quite still in his nook, save when he saw a mouse, and did not speak a word, so that the jay had all the talk. When he had thus spent an hour or so, he took his leave, with a heart full of glee, and said as he went that he must love that dear old owl, and that he did not know when he had a chat to cheer him up so much.

If you wish to please your friend, sit still, and let him talk.

89. THE STAG, THE CROW, AND THE WOLF.

A wolf saw a plump stag, and thought, How can I feast on his flesh? Then he drew near, and said, "All hail be to thee!" and made friends with the stag. "Hey day! whom have you there?" said a crow that flew by. The stag told him that he was a good wolf. "Have a care!" said the crow; "Trust him not."

Yet the stag took no heed of his words, but let the

wolf lead him at night to feed in a field that had a crop of ripe wheat in it. Now, there was a trap in the field, and the poor stag was caught by the feet. "This is well," thought the wolf; "for when his flesh is cut up, the bones, and what is left, will be for me."

The crow flew to the spot, but could give his friend no aid. The next day the man who had set the snare came with a knife in his hand to kill the stag. "If you care for your life," cried the crow, "lie quite still, and seem to be dead; but when I give a caw, start up at once, and take to your heels as fast as you can."

So the stag lay quite still, held his breath, and shut his eyes. When the man came up, he thought the stag was dead, and set him free from the snare. Then he went a few steps off to fold up the net, when the crow's voice was heard, and the stag got up and ran off at full speed. In the meantime the wolf came up to seek for his feast, and was slain by the man.

A false friend is worse than a foe.

90. THE FROGS AND THEIR KING.

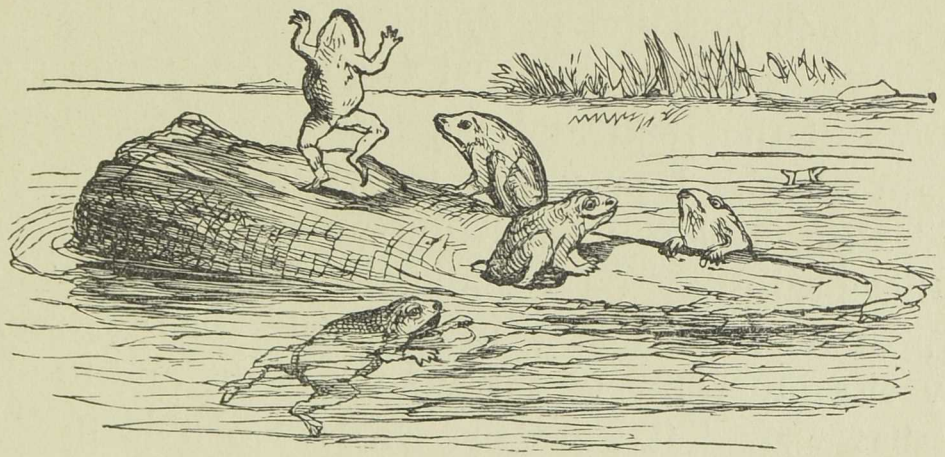
In the days of yore the frogs met to beg of Jove to send them a king. So he threw them a log, and said, "There's a king for you—a good, kind one!"

Well, King Log came on the pond with such a splash, that the frogs took fright at him. Some hid in the mud, and some in the reeds; and, for a long time, there was not one that would dare to take a peep.

By-and-by, when they saw that King Log lay quite

still, they said, "See, he sleeps!" Then some swam round him, and up to him, till, one by one, they leapt on his back, and at last they spat on him as they did not like him. So, with harsh croaks, they asked Jove to change him for one with more life; in short, a king that would move.

Jove then sent them an eel, and he, too, was too tame for them; and, a third time, they begged Jove to choose for them a king with more strength of will. This time



he sent them a stork, who, day by day, made the frogs his prey, till there were none left to croak on the lake save one.

He shook his head and said, "If we had had the sense to keep still, there would have been no need to mend our state, for now we have found to our loss what we did not seek."

Do not set the Fox to keep the Geese.

91. THE HAWK, THE ROOKS, AND THE CAT.

In the trunk of an old elm tree dwelt an old bird of prey, with claws blunt, and eyes blind with age. The rooks fed him from their own store, while he, on his part, took charge of their young ones when the old birds went in search of food.

One day, a cat—"Long Ear" by name—came to prey on the young rooks, who, when they saw her, gave a loud scream. The old hawk heard it and asked, "Who is that?"

"I am a cat," said "Long Ear."

"Ha!" said the hawk, "Cats love flesh, and the young rooks dwell here—that's all I know. Get you gone at once, or I will put you to death!"

"Not so," said the cat. "I eat no meat now; and all the beasts of the field and the birds of the air love me—for I am good. I pray you to let me stay, for you are old and wise, and can teach me much."

By this praise sly puss made the old hawk put his trust in her, so he let her stay in the trunk of the tree. Day by day she ate some of the young birds, and took all the bones that were left from the feast to a hole in the stem of the old elm tree, that the death of the young rooks might be laid to the charge of the hawk.

The old birds were in great grief for the loss of their young ones; and when they saw the bones in the hole of the tree, they of course laid the blame on the hawk, and they all flew at the poor old bird and put him to death.

He said with his last breath, "Ah me! How much worse than a foe is a false friend!"

92. THE WOLF AND THE CRANE.

A WOLF had a bone that stuck in his throat. It gave him so much pain that he ran with a howl, up and down, to ask all whom he met to lend him a kind hand, and said he would give a large sum to the bird or beast who

would take it out. At last a crane came up, put her long bill down the wolf's throat, and drew out the bone.

The crane then said, "Now, pay me the sum you said you would?"

"Wretch that you are!" said the wolf, "to ask for more than this—that you should put your head in a wolf's mouth, and bring it safe out!"

93. THE LARK AND THE FINCH.

A POOR lark was kept in a cage that hung on a wall, in a town that was full of dust and dirt. One day, as he stood on his piece of dead turf, to trill out his sweet song, a finch, who by chance flew that way, said, "How can you sing so sweet a song shut up in that small cage?"

"Finch, finch," called out the lark, in his clear tones, "do you not know that if I did not sing while I am shut up here, I should fail to call to mind my song when the time came to mount up to the sky?"

94. THE COCK AND THE FOX.

A COCK stood on the top of a rick, and gave a loud crow. A fox, who saw him, thought he would just do for a meal; but though the cock could fly down to him, he could not climb up to the cock; so he said, "Have you heard the news?"

COCK.—What news?

FOX.—Peace has been sworn by bird and beast.

COCK.—Do you say so? Let me hear how it came to pass.

FOX.—Well, the birds and the beasts have met, and have sworn a truce. We are now quite safe by night and day. The wolf will no more tear the lamb, nor the fox kill the kid; the cat will not catch the mice, nor the dog bark at the sheep; and from this time all will live in peace: so come down, that I may wish you joy on this new state of things.

The cock did not say much, but gave his neck a stretch, and looked round as if he saw some foe at hand.

Fox.—What is it you see?

Cock.—Why, I think I see a pack of hounds. No doubt they come this way to tell the good news.

Fox.—Oh, then, I must be gone!

Cock.—No; pray, sir, do not go; I am just on the point of a flight down to you. You can have no fear of dogs in this time of peace.

Fox.—Why, no—no—but—it may be they have not heard the news!

Cock.—If the sky falls, we shall catch larks. You might as well try to make me think the moon is made of green cheese!

95. THE HARE AND HER FRIENDS.

A hare that was known to be good and kind was a friend to all the beasts of the field. One day the hounds caught sight of her, and chased her so hard that at last she lay quite faint by the side of the road. To her great joy a horse came by. "Let me mount you," she said, "and the hounds will then be thrown off the scent."

"Poor Puss," said the horse, with a sigh, "it makes me sad to see you thus: but look up—all your friends are near."

She next sought aid from the bull. "I would lend you help, for to be sure I wish you well," said he; "but I am the head of the herd, and I must now join it." The

goat, who came next, said, "I fear my coat is too rough for you; there's the sheep with his soft wool."

But the sheep told her that she was too weak to bear her weight, and that hounds eat sheep as well as hares. A young calf was the poor hare's last chance, and he said, "If those who have gone by, who are grown up, did not help you, what good can I do, who am but young and weak?"

Just then the hounds came in sight, and the calf ran off, and left the poor hare to her fate. "Ah!" said she, "friends are like bees; on bright days they swarm, but when clouds shut out the sun they are not to be found, though sought."

When your friend is in want, help him at once.

96. THE ASS AND THE LAP-DOG.

Once on a time there was a man who had a pet dog, of which he was so fond that he let him eat from his own plate, and sit on his knee. The same man kept an ass that drew a load of wood all day and had to take his turn in the corn-mill at night.

"What a hard lot is mine!" said he; "I work night and day while the lap-dog leads a life of ease. No doubt my lord would get as fond of his ass as he is of his dog, if I could but win his love by the same tricks."

At last one day he broke loose from his stall, set off to the room where the man was, tried to lick his face,

and gave a loud bray in his ear. But now the ass had gone too far with his rough play; for the men of the farm heard the noise and came in with clubs, sticks, and staves to beat him.

97. THE OAK AND THE REEDS.

An oak which stood on the side of a brook was torn up by the roots in a storm, and as the wind took it down the stream, its boughs caught on some reeds which grew

on the bank. "How strange it is," said the oak, "that such a slight and frail thing as a reed should face the

blast, while my strong trunk which has stood so long, is torn down, root and branch!"

A reed, which caught the sound of these words, said, in soft tones, "If I may be bold with you, I think the cause of it lies in your pride of heart. You are stiff and proud, and trust in your own strength, while we yield and bow to the rough blast."

It is worse to break than to bend.

98. THE MAID AND HER MILK-PAIL.

ONE day, as a young maid went down the road with her pail of milk on her head, she was heard to say, "This pail of milk will fetch me so much, which sum I will lay out in eggs; these eggs will bring a score of chicks, and they will be fit to sell just at the time when fowls fetch a good price; so that on May-day I shall have a new gown. Let me see,—yes, green will suit me best, and green it shall be. In this dress I will go to the fair, and all the young men there will want to wed me; but with a proud look and a toss of my head I shall turn from them."

Full of this dream of joy, she tossed her head to suit her words, when down came the pail of milk, and with it the eggs, the chicks, the green gown, and all the plans of what she would do at the fair.

Count not your chicks till they are out of the shell.

99. THE APE MADE KING.

THE beasts once chose an ape for their king. From morn till night he would play all his droll tricks to please them, and they could not rest till they had put him on a throne, with a king's crown on his head. They did all they could to swell his pride, and the beasts took him to be as wise as he was great—all but the fox, who knew what a bad choice they had made.

One day, as the fox was on his way to the king's court, he saw a trap in the ditch with nuts, figs, and dates for a bait. He told the ape of all these good things, and said that as they were found on a piece of waste land, they were the king's by right.

The ape, who did not dream that the fox would play him a trick, went to claim them; but as soon as he had laid his paw on the bait, he was caught in the trap.

Stung with rage and pain, he called the fox all the hard names he could think of; but all the fox said was, "Are you a king, and can't see a trap?"

100. THE OLD BLIND DAME.

ONCE on a time an old dame that was blind sent for Dr. Dash to cure her. She told him that if he brought back her sight he should have a large fee, but that if he did not cure her, he was to have no fee at all.

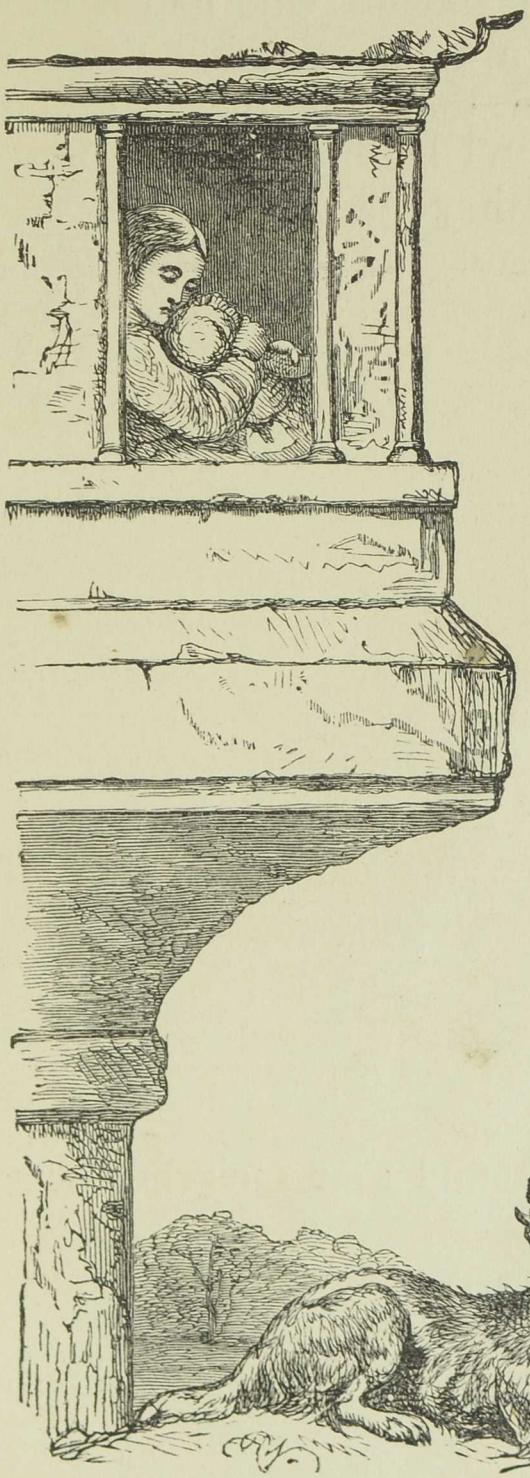
Well, day by day Dr. Dash made his call on the dame, and one by one he took off all her goods. At last, when he had swept the house clear of them, he set to work on her eyes, and made a cure; so once more, to her great joy, the old dame could see.

"I must ask you for my fee," said Dr. Dash; but the dame put him off from time to time, and did not pay him. At last he went to law; and she came to the court, and spoke thus to the judge:

"What Dr. Dash tells you is quite true, in so far as I said I would give him a large fee if he brought my sight back. Now, then, he tells me my eyes are well, but I say they are not; for till my bad sight had come on, I could see all sorts of goods in my house, while now, when he tells me he has made a cure of my eyes, I can see none there; and I think, my lord, that he who plays tricks ought to take a joke!"

101. THE NURSE AND THE WOLF.

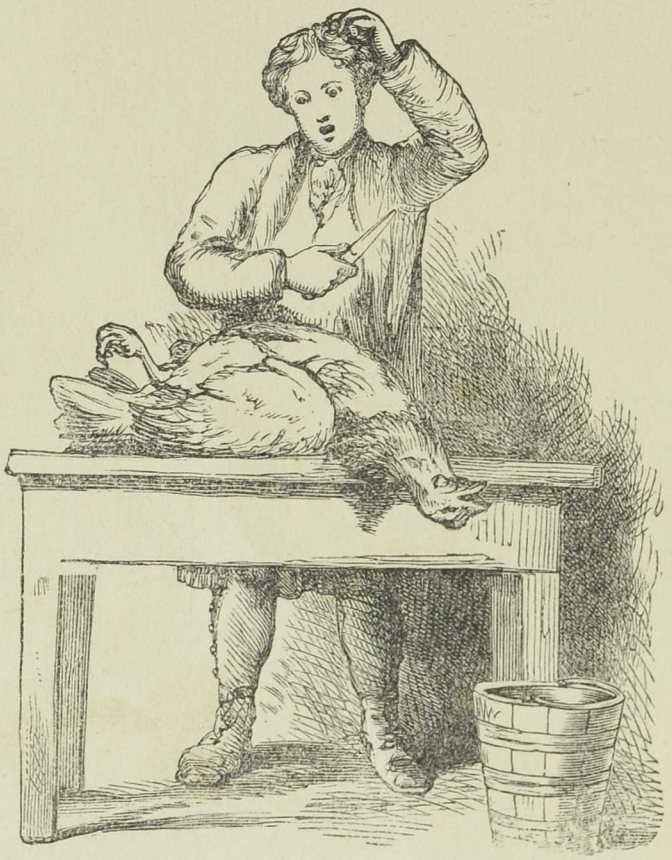
A WOLF that was in search of food, was seen to prowl near a house where he heard a child cry, and its nurse say to it—"Be still, and leave off at once, or I will throw you out of doors to the wolf!" So the wolf sat near the house for a long time, in the hope that he should see her words come true. At last the child, worn out by its cries, fell off to sleep.



In a short time the wolf heard the nurse say, "If the fierce old wolf comes for my babe, we will beat him to death, we will." The wolf now thought it high time to be off, and said as he went, "If folk say that which they do not mean at one hour, and mean that which they do not say the next, what can a child or a wolf think of it?"

102. THE HEN THAT LAID THE GOLD EGG.

In the good old times, a man and his wife had a hen that each day of her life laid a gold egg; but the old folk thought that one egg from the time that the sun rose till he set was slow work, and in the hope that they would find a lump of gold in her, they put the bird to death.



But to their great grief they found that their hen was just the same as all hens.

"Ah, my dear," said the old man, "he who has much would have more."

"True," said his wife, with a sigh, "and so comes to lose all."

103. THE BOAR AND THE HORSE.

In days of old a horse came to drink at a pond, when he saw that a wild boar lay in the mud at the edge, which made the pool thick and foul. Fierce neighs and grunts were soon heard, and but for the fear the horse had of the boar's huge tusks, they would have fought.

At last the horse found a man to help him, who soon made a bit and a rein, took his bow, got on the back of the horse, and off they both went. The boar, struck with fear at so strange a sight, ran off as fast as he could, but the horse soon came up to him, and the man shot him dead.

Now that there was no cause for fear, the horse wished to be free once more, so he said, "I pray thee take off this rein."

"Nay, that I will not do, my friend," said the man; "for now that I have found out thy use, I will keep thee to ride on."

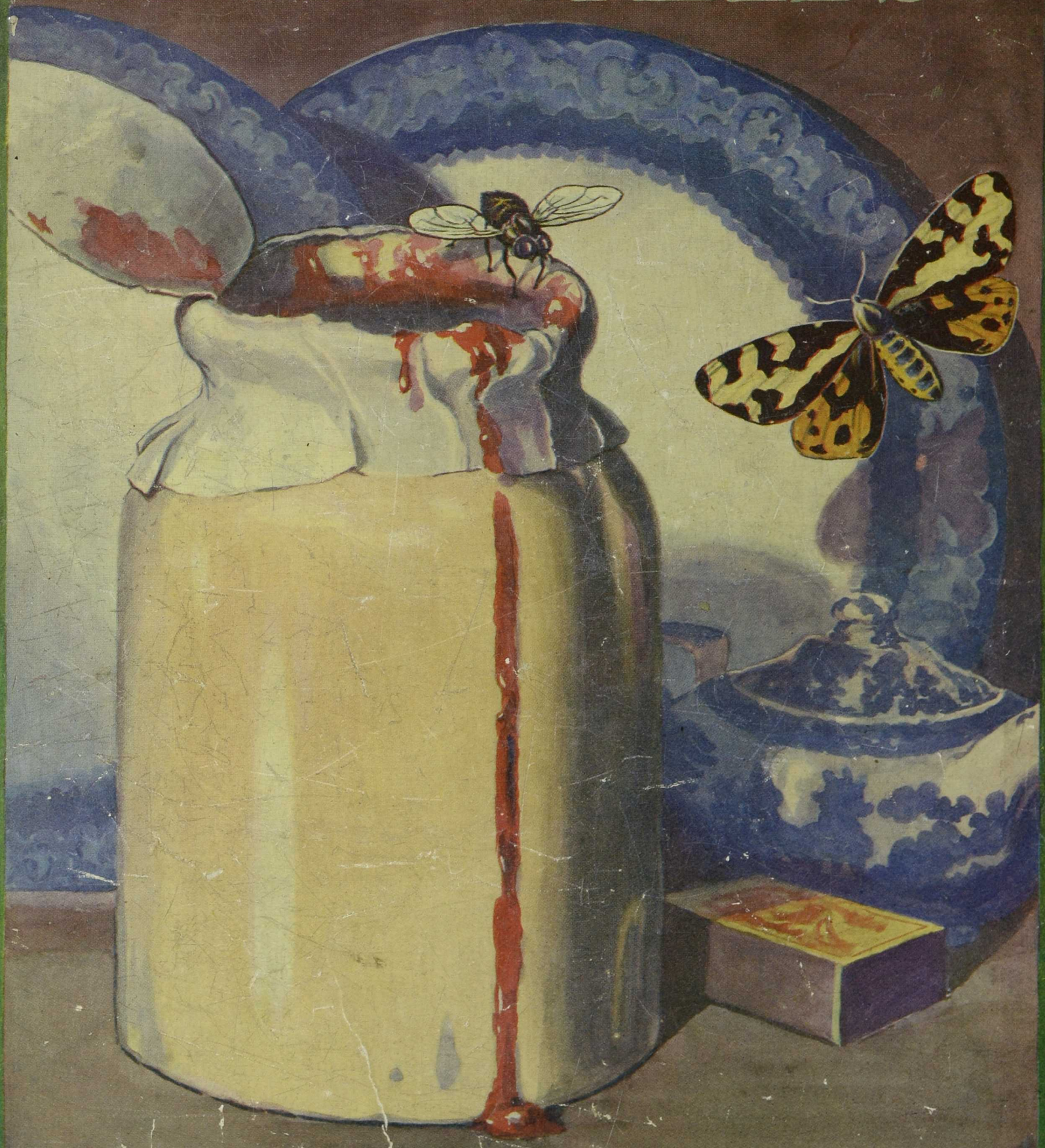
OSB
A
AIKIN, LUCY
AESOP'S...
[ca. 1909?]

THE
JOHN SULLIVAN HAYES
COLLECTION

A Bequest to
THE OSBORNE COLLECTION - TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
in memory of
JOHN SULLIVAN HAYES & JO ANN ELLIOTT HAYES
from their children
ANN ALYCIN AND ELLIOTT HAYES

37131 013 248 588 97H12MFP

ÆSOP'S FABLES



IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

H. L. STRINDLER